

# THE TIMES

Roses are red ...



...violets are blue  
A Miles Kingston  
Valentine story for you

Beat ...  
Fashion Page looks at  
spring clothes with an  
African beat  
...the clock  
John Hennessy and  
David Miller on the  
Winter Olympics in  
Sarajevo

Red ...  
Richard Owens on the  
next man at the top in  
Moscow

...Square  
A man and his island:  
second instalment of  
Arthur and Cynthia  
Koestler's joint  
autobiography, *Stranger  
on The Square*

## Sellafield process criticized

Two inquiry reports into the  
contamination of beaches  
around the Sellafield nuclear  
plant last November are  
believed to have criticized the  
procedures for removing radio-  
active refuse. The plant's own  
internal inquiry admits error,  
but says such accidents cannot  
be allowed to happen again.

## Spain is skiers' best bargain

Skiers get the best winter sports  
holiday bargains in Spain,  
according to a survey of nine  
destinations. Aviemore, in the  
Cairngorms, is considered a  
good buy and Switzerland  
remains the dearest destination.

## Out of tune

The eight Democratic candi-  
dates for the presidential nomi-  
nation attacked each other as  
vehemently as they attacked  
President Reagan, in a TV  
debate in Des Moines, Iowa.

## 65 hurt at party

Sixty-five people were injured,  
one critically, when a floor  
collapsed at a party attended by  
200 teenagers in east London.

## Clash on sect

A parliamentary clash is ex-  
pected after the Ministry of  
Defence failed to warn British  
speakers that a nuclear debate  
was sponsored by the Unifi-  
cation Church, The "Moonies".

## Airbus decision

A decision on £437m of  
government aid for the launch  
of the A320 Airbus is expected  
this week to enable British  
Aerospace's continued partici-  
pation in the project.

## Veto may go

The national veto on EEC  
decisions may end if the  
European Parliament has its  
way. It is expected tomorrow to  
approve a draft treaty which  
would also increase its own  
power.

## Writer dies

Julio Cortázar, the Argentine-  
born author considered one of  
the greatest contemporary Latin  
American writers, died in Paris  
yesterday of cancer at the age  
of 69.

## 5-goal United

Manchester United moved into  
third place in the Football  
League after beating Luton  
Town 5-0 at Luton. Robson (2),  
Whiteside (2) and Stapleton  
scored the goals.

Leader page 13

Letters: On marriage from Mr  
J. R. E. Robinson, the Rev  
Thomas Steel and Mrs R. A.  
Holmes; country heritage from  
Mr A. Phillips and Dr W. J.  
Blair; freedom of speech from  
Lord Henderson of Brompton  
Leading articles: Andropov  
succession; New Ireland Forum  
Features, pages 10-12  
Robert Mugabe replies to critics  
of his Government's wish for a  
one-party state; the yippee who  
learned to zip; Anne Sofie on  
class, politics and education.  
Spectrum: The Koestler story,  
Monday page; Waiting for ever  
in Vienna  
Obituary, page 14  
Tom Keating, Mr Ioan Evans

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# Kremlin seeks to show unity to West's leaders

● The Soviet Central Committee meets in  
emergency session today to choose a  
successor to the late President Yuri  
Andropov  
● After meeting Mrs Margaret Thatcher,  
US Vice-President Bush politely dismissed  
suggestions that Britain could help bring  
East and West together

● At tomorrow's Red Square funeral,  
Britain will be represented by the Prime  
Minister, as well as Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr  
Denis Healey, Mr David Steele and Dr  
David Owen  
● Washington played down speculation  
about an early summit between President  
Reagan and the new Soviet leader (Page 7)

From Richard Owen, Moscow

As foreign leaders arrive in  
Moscow today for the funeral  
of President Andropov, the  
Communist Party's Central  
Committee is to meet in an  
emergency session to con-  
sider the question of his  
successor.

The post-Andropov leader-  
ship is reported to be anxious to  
present a united front to Vice-  
President Bush, Mrs Thatcher,  
Chancellor Kohl and other  
Western leaders. The state  
funeral on Red Square will be  
followed by a reception at  
which the Politburo will pre-  
sent.

Few of the Kremlin leaders  
have extensive experience of  
foreign affairs and the West  
except Mr Andrei Gromyko, the  
veteran Foreign Minister. Mr  
Konstantin Chernenko, widely  
seen as possible interim leader,  
specializes in party adminis-  
tration, ideology and education.

Informal sources here said  
yesterday that Mr Chernenko,  
who is 72, might act as leader  
even if the Central Committee  
were unable to agree on a new  
general secretary.

The Politburo met in emer-  
gency session on Friday, but it  
is not known what decision it  
came to. The 300-strong Central  
Committee would not normally  
have a decisive say in the choice

of leader unless the Politburo  
was divided.  
Mr Chernenko, the most  
senior Kremlin leader after  
President Andropov, has been  
acting head of the Politburo  
for some time. He was appointed  
head of the funeral commission  
on Friday, normally a sign of  
possible promotion. He was  
supported by some Party  
apparatchiks even after losing  
the power struggle to Mr  
Andropov in 1982, but opposed  
by those who want a younger  
and more dynamic leader.

There are suggestions that  
Mr Chernenko misses his  
second chance, another veteran,  
such as Marshal Ustinov or Mr  
Gromyko could step in.

A sign that the old guard is in  
command came on Saturday as  
the Politburo filed past Mr  
Andropov's body lying in state  
in the Hall of Columns. Tele-  
vision coverage suggested  
that the older leaders repre-  
sented power and continuity,  
as well as paying respects to one  
of their generation.

Younger contenders, such as  
Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr  
Grigory Romanov, Mr Geidar

Aliyev and Mr Vitaly Vorotni-  
kov, were pushed to one side,  
although *Pravda* yesterday  
published a wide-angle photograph  
which placed Mr Gorbachev,  
aged 52, firmly in the middle.  
The only Politburo member  
missing was Mr Vladimir  
Shcherbik, the Ukrainian  
party leader.

The lying in state gave  
viewers their first glimpse of  
Mrs Tatyana Andropov, the  
President's widow, who was  
seen receiving condolences  
from Mr Chernenko, Marshal  
Ustinov and younger Andropov  
proteges, such as Mr Gorba-  
chev and Mr Vorotnikov. A  
remote and secretive man, Mr  
Andropov had, while alive, kept  
his family in the background,  
and there were rumours that  
Mrs Andropov was either dead  
or separated from him.

Also present were Mr Andro-  
pov's daughter, Irina, a journal-  
ist and musician, and his son  
Igor, a career diplomat and  
delegate to the Stockholm  
conference. In a rare display  
of public grief the son broke  
down and had to be comforted  
by his father's Politburo colleagues.

*Pravda*, published with black  
borders, carried tributes to Mr  
Andropov from party organs.

Continued on back page, col 7

## Bush rejects Britain as 'peace broker'

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Suggestions that Britain  
could play a leading role in  
bringing East and West together  
again were politely but firmly  
dismissed by Mr George Bush,  
the United States Vice-Presi-  
dent, in London yesterday.

Speaking after lengthy over-  
night talks at Chequers, where  
he and Mrs Margaret Thatcher  
discussed their forthcoming  
visit to Moscow for the funeral  
of President Andropov, he said  
that the Prime Minister had a  
"very high standing" among the  
American people. Her visit to  
Hungary had been "extraordi-  
narily interesting" and she  
certainly had a useful part to  
play.

"But I do not want to leave  
the impression that I feel the  
whole United States-Soviet  
relationship can be brokered or  
solved by an intermediary. That  
has to be by contact between the  
United States and the Soviet  
Union themselves," he said.

He declined to disclose what  
he was taking "in his pocket" to  
Moscow. But the clear inference  
was that specific proposals were  
not among them. His mission  
was more to outline the "basic  
context" in which negotiations  
could take place, and not just on  
arms control.

He was similarly reluctant to  
be drawn on the possibilities of  
a summit between President  
Reagan and the new Soviet  
leader in the Spring. The  
President was certainly willing,  
but one had to understand that  
in the Soviet system there was  
no one individual "calling the  
shots".

Mr Bush did not think Mr  
Reagan was losing an oppor-  
tunity by not himself attending  
the funeral. The substance was  
more important than the form,  
and the substance was that he  
would be going and making  
clear to the Soviet leaders  
Washington's desire for im-  
proved relations. He was

## Thatcher flies today to Moscow

By Philip Webster  
Political Reporter

The Prime Minister will fly to  
Moscow this afternoon for  
President Andropov's funeral  
intending in any talks with his  
successor to stress her personal  
commitment to better relations  
between East and West, and to  
call for a resumption of the  
stalled arms control negotia-  
tions.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will  
be accompanied by Sir Geoffrey  
Howe, the Foreign Secretary,  
on the same aircraft, at her  
invitation, will be Mr Denis  
Healey, the Shadow Foreign  
Secretary, Mr David Steel,  
the Liberal leader, and Dr David  
Owen, leader of the Social  
Democrats.

Mr Healey is representing the  
Labour Party because Mr Neil  
Kinnock, the party leader, is on  
a visit to the United States. He  
is expected to meet President  
Reagan and other members of  
the American Administration  
tomorrow and intends to pay  
his personal respects to Mr  
Andropov by signing the book  
of condolences at the Soviet  
Embassy in Washington.

Mr Steel has recently re-  
turned from a visit to Moscow.  
Dr Owen was there in October  
1977, when he was Foreign  
Secretary.

Mrs Thatcher's decision to go  
to Moscow - despite that of Mr  
Reagan to stay away - and to  
take a high level all-party  
delegation with her is intended  
to signal to the new leadership  
her determination to seek  
improved dialogue, building on  
the success of her trip to  
Hungary just over a week ago.

It was also seen as a further  
sign of her wish to play a more  
prominent role in foreign  
affairs. At President Brezhnev's  
funeral she was happy for the  
Government to be represented  
by Mr Francis Pym, then  
Foreign Secretary.

Continued on back page, col 7



Mr Bush and Mrs Thatcher after their Chequers meeting yesterday.

## Tory rift with BBC widens

By Philip Webster  
Political Reporter

The Conservative Party's un-  
easy relationship with the BBC  
deteriorated sharply yesterday  
when Mr John Selwyn Gun-  
ner, the party chairman, said  
that the *Panorama* television  
programme on alleged links  
between Conservative MPs and  
extreme right wing groups  
contained smears and innu-  
endoes and used undemocratic  
techniques.

Mr Gummer said that the  
programme, shown on January  
30, contained "outrageous  
statements...guilt by association  
and McCarthyite comment."  
He gave a warning that "very  
serious action" would have to  
be taken.

Mr Gummer and Mr John  
Wakeham, the Government  
chief whip, are to meet the BBC  
director-general, Mr Alasdair  
Milne, probably today, to  
protest about the programme.

Five Conservative MPs who  
were named in the programme,  
Mr Harvey Proctor (Billeri-  
cay), Mr Roger Moore (Faver-  
sham), Mr Gerald Howarth  
(Cannock and Burntwood), Mr  
Neil Hamilton (Tatton), and  
Mr Warren Haskley (The Wre-  
kin), have issued writs against  
the BBC.

Mr Howarth and Mr Hamil-  
ton have also issued writs  
against Mr Phil Pedley, chair-  
man of the Young Conserva-  
tives, for remarks he made in  
the programme.

That has caused embarras-  
ment among party chiefs. It is  
understood that Mr Gummer  
has seen the MPs in an attempt  
to persuade them to drop the  
writs against Mr Pedley.

Mr Gummer's remarks,  
yesterday to the 1,800 dele-  
gates at the Young Conserva-  
tives' national conference in  
Blackpool, provoked a political  
controversy last night.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the  
Shadow Home Secretary,  
asked whether Mr Gummer's  
statement about "very serious  
action" meant that the Govern-  
ment was going to use the next  
application for a licence fee  
increase as a bludgeon to  
blackmail the BBC to stay in  
line.

He called Mr Gummer a  
"political pipsqueak".

The BBC said last night that  
it could not comment on Mr  
Gummer's criticisms because of  
impending legal action.

## Syria warns US to stop naval shelling

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The Americans by last night  
had taken one-third of their  
entire 1,500-strong Marine force  
out of Beirut and were with-  
drawing from several of their  
advanced positions around the  
international airport. But their  
declared determination to sup-  
port what is left of President  
Gemayel's regime was further  
threatened yesterday by a  
Syrian warning that it would  
"no longer tolerate" any naval  
bombardments in Lebanon by  
warships of the US Sixth Fleet.

So concerned are the  
Americans that they may be  
attacked in the closing stages of  
their withdrawal that they have  
even stocked a set of small anti-  
aircraft missiles on a rooftop  
beside the Beirut Embassy on  
the Beirut seaford for fear that  
a suicide bomber might crash  
an aircraft into the building  
where many US diplomats still  
work.

Western military, Phalangist  
and Israeli sources were all  
alleging over the weekend that  
up to 1,000 Palestinian guer-  
rillas had returned to west  
Beirut during the past week of  
fighting.

The claim is a highly dubious  
one and no evidence of such a  
force has been found, but  
Muslim militias in the western  
sector of the capital are  
becoming concerned that this  
might be used as an excuse for  
a further barrage of shells on their  
area of the city by Christian  
units of the Lebanese Army or  
even an air raid by Israeli jets.

There was, however, no  
doubting the seriousness of  
Syria's warning yesterday.  
Speaking at a press conference  
in Damascus, Mr Farouk Al-  
Sharaa, the Minister of State for  
Foreign Affairs, said that Syria  
had exercised self-restraint after  
the naval bombardment of  
Druze and Syrian-held territory  
in Lebanon last week. "This  
cannot go on forever and our  
self-restraint has limits," he  
said.

According to Mr Al-Sharaa,  
the American Ambassador in  
Damascus had heard some  
"strong words" from President  
Assad following the New  
Jersey's barrage of 250 million  
shells.

The front line around west  
Beirut was opened by French  
troops yesterday for a Red  
Cross convoy carrying flour,  
blankets, tinned fish and soya-  
bean oil to travel from the east  
of the city into the besieged  
Muslim sector but at other  
points around the perimeter  
sniping continued between  
Lebanese Government troops  
and Muslim militias.

About one-third of the army  
is now estimated to have either  
defected or refused to go into  
combat against the militias but  
the Christian Phalangists are  
now fighting with Lebanese soldiers  
in at least two areas of the line,  
with Phalangist militiamen and  
Government troops manning  
the same position together.

Continued on back page, col 7

## Art faker Keating dies at 66

Tom Keating, the picture  
faker who fooled the art world  
with his imitations of great  
painters, died peacefully in  
hospital yesterday, aged 66.

He had had a heart condition  
for several years and recently  
told friends he knew he did not  
have long to live.

Mr Keating, admitted faking  
pictures by the landscape artist  
Samuel Palmer, and was tried at  
the Central Criminal Court five  
years ago but conspiracy, false  
representation and deception  
charges were dropped because  
of his health.

The Channel 4 series, *Tom  
Keating on Impressionism*, will  
begin as planned tomorrow.

Obituary, page 14

## Defeated NUM candidate questions poll

By Our Labour Reporter

The defeated right-wing  
candidate in the election for a  
general secretary of the  
National Union of Mine-  
workers last month has given  
the executive a mid-week  
deadline to explain alleged poll  
irregularities.

Mr John Walsh said yester-  
day that he was considering  
High Court action against his  
union if there was no satisfac-  
tory explanation.

Mr Walsh, who lost by 3,615  
votes to Mr Peter Heathfield, a  
left-winger, says he has received  
no reply to protest letters.

He has demanded to know  
why figures for unused ballot  
papers have not been issued and  
why there was an abnormally  
high percentage of spoilt papers.  
He also claims that more  
than 1,600 miners in his home  
territory of North Yorkshire  
could not vote because polling  
stations closed early.

## Torvill and Dean stay ahead in Sarajevo

From David Miller  
Sarajevo

Christopher Dean and Jayne  
Torvill, three times world ice  
dance champions, maintained  
their challenge for the Olympic  
title in Sarajevo yesterday.  
Princess Anne, president of the  
British Olympic Association,  
was among the spectators.

With yet another theatrical  
performance of the evocative  
Paso Doble, choreographed by  
Dean, in which Miss Torvill  
portrays the matador's cape,  
the British couple convincingly  
sustained their lead ahead of  
Soviet and American rivals.

But if they should come  
second to Natalya Bestemina-  
nova and Andrei Bukin of the  
Soviet Union in tomorrow's  
final free dance, they could still  
lose.

Yesterday they received four  
perfect marks of six from the  
nine judges, after three for the  
compulsory dances, even  
though Miss Torvill once  
touched the ice with her hand  
during a horizontal spin, right



Princess Anne greeting Christopher Dean and Jayne Torvill in Sarajevo yesterday.

in front of the judges. Courtney  
Jones, the British judge, gave  
5.9 for both composition and  
interpretation.

Dean later apologized to  
Michael Siebert of the United  
States for a distraction at the  
rinkside, when a British skat-  
ing official unthinkingly de-  
cided to take the British pair  
immediately after their mark-  
ing to where Princess Anne was  
seated.

Dozens of cameramen crowd-  
ed round, distracting spectators  
just as the US pair started to  
dance, although Siebert told  
Dean that neither he nor Judy  
Blumberg noticed the com-  
motion.

The alpine skiing events,  
postponed by a continual  
snowfall, have been resched-  
uled: both runs on the women's  
giant slalom will be held today  
and both of the men's giant

slalom tomorrow, with the two  
downhill events towards the  
end of the week.

Maria Liisa Hamalainen of  
Finland became the first double  
gold medal winner when she  
added the five-kilometre Nordic  
cross-country to her victory in  
the 10-kilometre race.

All three medals in the  
women's singles luge went to  
East Germany.  
John Hennessy, page 18

## GCHQ ex-chief joined Plessey

By Barrie Clement  
Labour Reporter

Sir Brian Tovey, former head  
of the Government Communi-  
cations Headquarters and archi-  
tect of the union ban, is now  
employed by a company at-  
tempting to recruit personnel  
from the complex.

Sir Brian, aged 58, joined  
Plessey, the British electronics  
group, as a full-time consultant  
on security matters last  
November, three months after  
leaving GCHQ.

In an advertisement in a local  
newspaper, the company urges  
professionals with skills used at  
the centre to join them: "Work  
at the leading edge of tech-  
nology, but not on a knife edge.  
It is difficult to feel dedicated  
when the prospects are cloud-  
ed." Both Plessey and Marconi  
have arranged recruiting ses-  
sions at local hotels this week.

Trade unionists feel that  
Plessey and other companies  
are attempting to profit from  
the uncertainty created by the  
ban on unions at the centre to  
attract specialist staff.

Mr Alistair Graham, general  
secretary of the Civil and Public  
Services Association, said last  
night: "Sir Brian Tovey, as the  
architect of the current dispute  
has a brass neck to be associated  
with a firm which is seeking to  
take advantage of the dispute in  
a way that could be potentially  
more damaging to national  
security than anything the trade  
unions have done."

It seems as if the Govern-  
ment has been aiming at the  
wrong target. It should have  
banned Sir Brian Tovey and  
Plessey from Cheltenham rather  
than the trade unions if it is  
genuinely interested in safe-  
guarding national security.

Mr Graham said that there  
was potentially a "very serious  
conflict of interest". He added:  
"Sir Brian can identify market-  
able skills at GCHQ and point  
Plessey in the right direction. It  
they are successful it could  
seriously undermine GCHQ."

Plessey denied last night that  
Sir Brian had anything to do  
with recruitment from the  
Cheltenham station. A spokes-  
man said: "Any suggestion that  
Sir Brian was in any way  
involved or interested in re-  
cruiting people from GCHQ is  
out of the question."

Mr Parry Rogers, director of  
personnel for the group, said  
that the company was not  
attempting to profit from the  
union ban at the complex and  
its recruitment campaign was  
not specifically aimed at Chel-  
tenham.

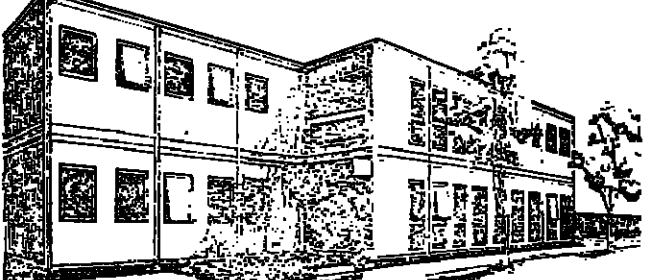
The company regards Sir  
Brian's appointment as "a great  
coup". It had been in compe-  
tition with other companies.  
One of his predecessors, Sir  
Leonard Hooper, who was  
director between 1963 and  
1972, went to work for Racal.  
It has long been considered a  
"perk" of working at the centre  
that highly paid jobs could be  
available on retirement.

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# Sellafield inquiry reports criticize process of moving radioactive refuse

By Ronald Faux

Three reports into the accident last November which contaminated beaches around the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant in Cumbria with radioactive pollution are expected next week.

Two, from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and the Radiochemical Inspectorate of the Department of the Environment, are thought to be critical of the procedures for discharging radioactive waste that were in force at the time and which allowed radioactive solvents and crud to be released into the Irish Sea.

The operator of the plant, British Nuclear Fuels Limited, was unaware that the crud had reached an advanced stage of the discharge system until alarms were automatically triggered.

The management took countermeasures, diverting most of the crud and pure solvent to an alternative tank, but some did reach the open sea where an onshore breeze swept a surface film of solvent on to the beach. Points along a 25-mile stretch of coast were contaminated.

BNFL calculates that 1,000 curies of beta gamma activity were released. According to government regulations the plant is allowed to discharge 300,000 curies of such activity into the sea a year.

In its own report, expected next week, BNFL admits its error but points out that the plant does not discharge more than 30 per cent of the

radioactive material which it is licensed by government to discharge.

But within those overall safe limits lies the Alara (as low as reasonably achievable) standard set by the Radioactive Substances Act, 1960. That makes BNFL vulnerable to prosecution in case of accidental discharge even though the safe limits have not been breached.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has ordered an investigation by Cumbria police into the accident and charges will be brought against BNFL if necessary.

The company believes that any serious breaches that the two government inquiries are likely to pinpoint have already been repaired. The highly radioactive crud is isolated from the sea tanks in the discharge system. A number of changes in engineering and record-keeping procedures has been made to tighten the system in line with the preliminary findings of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, which was called in after the accident.

It is expected that the BNFL report will not lay blame upon any one individual. No disciplinary action is to be taken within the company but the management is likely to be reminded that such accidents cannot be allowed to happen again.

The report is also expected to point out that a new approach is

needed to improve public confidence in the Sellafield plant which has received bruising publicity in recent months.

The impact of this was reflected last week in Cumbria County Council's decision not to use silt dredge from Maryport harbour as topsoil for a reclamation scheme in Worthington.

A report by a scientist from Edinburgh University has suggested that the silt in the harbour contains significant amounts of radioactivity. The council decided not to use the silt despite assurances from the radiological protection board and the environmental advisory group at Liverpool University that there was no risk to public health.

## Go-ahead for computer HQ

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, has decided to allow a £2m computer company headquarters to be built in the grounds of Thorpe Hall, a seventeenth century house on the outskirts of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

At a public inquiry last year into the plan main opposition came from the Peterborough Society, a conservationist group, which believes that the two-story offices will dwarf the hall and destroy its setting.



Dragon dancers: A traditional dragon, one of the attractions in a Chinese new year festival in west London yesterday, rearing up as the procession meanders through Queensway (Photograph: Chris Harris).

## TUC moves towards deal over party levy

By Barrie Clement  
Labour Reporter

The TUC is moving towards a deal with the Government over the political levy paid by trade unionists to the Labour Party.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, and Mr William Keys, chairman of its employment committee, have been holding confidential talks with Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, in an effort to thrash out a compromise.

Members of unions affiliated to the Labour Party now have to "contract out" of paying the levy if they wish to do so. Mr King wanted to introduce legislation which would mean that members would "contract in" if they wanted to contribute to party funds.

Under the deal reached in three months of talks, the TUC would introduce its own code to make it easier for trade unionists to opt out.

The formula will be put to the TUC's key employment committee on Wednesday, which might call for further discussions, and to the general council a week later.

Mr Keys said yesterday that he was confident that if Mr King could win the Cabinet's endorsement, the TUC would accept the settlement but he would not give any details about the proposed code.

He confirmed, however, that Mr King was adamant about his Bill, now going through the committee stages in the Commons, would contain a clause obligating unions to hold regular ballots on whether to retain a political fund.

A document prepared by the employment committee also makes it clear that Mr King will make no substantial concessions on other parts of the Bill which make compulsory ballots for executive elections and before strikes.

It is thought that the provisional formula agreed by Mr King would mean that the TUC would undertake to investigate any difficulty a union member might have in attempting to "contract out", a function now fulfilled largely by the certification officer.

Mr King's concession is considered by unions to be a response to criticism that the Conservative Party receives funds from private companies whose customers have no opportunity to "contract out".

## Rift over earnings threatens farm union leadership

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Increasing tensions and dissatisfaction within the farming community will surface at the annual general meeting of the National Farmers' Union, which begins in Kensington tomorrow and is expected to be the stormiest for many years.

There are likely to be some changes in the leadership, and even Sir Richard Butler, who is standing unopposed for the presidency, is not certain to receive the 80 per cent of council votes needed for automatic reelection.

Tired of being portrayed as people who have prospered during the recession, and of being blamed for extravagances of the EEC common agricultural policy, many farmers are nostalgic for the golden age of the early 1970's when, under the jovial, extrovert presidency of Sir Henry Plumb, now leader of the Conservatives in the European Parliament, the NFU was a thriving political force, with powerful friends in Cabinet.

Now they see themselves as misunderstood and discredited. Sir Richard is seen as a leader who has failed to prevent a rift between the union's grain and livestock sectors and a disastrous decline in farmers' political influence and public reputation.

Complaints that the NFU leadership is dominated by large

arable interests have been strengthened by the disclosure that incomes of grain growers have doubled in real terms since 1977.

Meanwhile, dairy farmers, who have achieved comparable productivity gains, have seen their earnings fall by a third.

The fact that the public has been encouraged by conservationist groups to regard farmers as greedy and destructive has strengthened feelings of beleaguement. Producers struggling to meet interest payments on bank debts are said to be cushioned by subsidies to provide unwanted food, eager to "destroy" the countryside in pursuit of profit, and indifferent to complaints about anti-social activities, such as straw burning.

The farmers' first instinct is to blame the union for their loss of esteem. Unfavourable media coverage is, they say, the fault of those who have failed to present their case with sufficient vigour.

Sir Richard, or any successor, will face a dilemma. He will be required to demand higher support prices and to defend farmers' prices to do as they want with land, and on the other to suggest that farmers' know and care far more about conservation than meddling "townies".

## Lords may revolt on homes

By David Walker  
Social Policy Correspondent

An intensive lobbying campaign begins this week in the House of Lords to persuade Conservative peers to line up against the Government over the sale of council houses.

If successful, the campaign, organized by a formidable coalition of groups representing the elderly, the disabled and rural and religious interests, would force the Government to recast an important aspect of its housing policy and also show government whips the likely depth of opposition in the Lords to the controversial Rates Bill which is due there in the spring.

At issue are the clauses of the Housing and Building Control Bill which extend a tenant's right to buy to occupants of flats and bungalows intended by councils for the elderly or physically handicapped.

Although the Bill excludes housing specially built for these groups or superintended by wardens, its opponents say that many thousands of specialist dwellings could eventually go to young and able-bodied people.

The threat of a Lords revolt against the Government is real. Last April Conservative peers defied whips and joined cross-benchers, bishops and opposition peers in defeating parts of an earlier version of the Housing Bill which would have extended the right to buy to tenants of charitable housing associations.

During the coming week peers will be subjected to a campaign led by Age Concern and the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation.

## UDA gets funds to form army

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A "loyalist" army is being formed, using funds raised from legitimate businesses in Northern Ireland, in expectation of open conflict before the end of the decade.

A military wing has been formed by the province's largest paramilitary force, the Ulster Defence Association, which has sent members to Europe and the Middle East in search of advice on terrorism.

Mr Andy Tyrre, the "supreme commander" of the UDA, said that a "well-trained and disciplined army" was needed to defend Ulster and would be ready for action "when the time comes".

He claimed that finances for the force were being raised through a network of legitimate businesses across the province, on a similar basis to the fundraising operations of the Provisional IRA.

"We have managed to learn a lot from the Republicans and we have learnt a lot from their mistakes," Mr Tyrre said.

Men have been chosen from paramilitary organizations for training during the last two years.

Mr Tyrre said: "Anybody who is going to be involved in the new defence force will be in it for one reason only - the defence of Ulster when the time comes."

He said that some years ago, when the UDA operated on the streets, men who masqueraded as officers had not been capable of doing the job. During reorganization "criminal elements" had been weeded out.

The UDA is the largest Protestant paramilitary organization in Northern Ireland but is not proscribed.

## Britain should lead EEC, Heath says

By Philip Webster  
Political Reporter

Mr Edward Heath called on the Government yesterday to take a lead in the European Community development in a way that would enable the Community to extend its political influence and recreate its prosperity.

Addressing the Young Conservatives' conference in Blackpool, the former Prime Minister said that leadership was sadly lacking in the Community, and leadership was what the original members hoped Britain would contribute after she joined.

Although Mr Heath agreed that the budget issue should be settled urgently, he said: "Let us not get ourselves bogged down in eternal bickering about the size of Britain's net contribution, a mere fraction of 1 per cent of our national income, while letting the policies from which we stand to gain so much go by default." There was more to Europe than the budget, he said.

Mr Heath's remarks were seen as criticism of Mrs Thatcher's handling of negotiations over EEC rebates.

Mr Heath said that the "orthodox European" view is about the future of the Community and should not be out of the "trivia" of Europe. "It is less than should be an action fought at the lowest common denominator of self-interest and nationalism. That is a self-defeating creed that neglects wider and longer-term interests of our nation."

He said that the European negotiations should be about the creation of a truly integrated Community. One of the themes should be the creation of a European industrial policy; the Community's population was greater than that of the United States and the gross domestic product was larger.

Mr Heath left his audience in no doubt that his hopes from



Mr Heath: "Genuine free market needed"

the Community were far more ambitious than the Government's more limited aspirations. He called for the harmonization of national standards to produce a "genuine free common market" to give industry a new impetus.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, in a speech which was seen as being aimed at entrenching his position on the party's liberal wing, said on Saturday that the party must have a caring role.

Urging it to reject right-wing dogma, Mr Heseltine said that the party's free market beliefs must be combined with concern for those who have suffered from "the economic blizzard of world recession".

"At the heart of Conservatism there lies the balance that sets concern alongside opportunity. For our party to care is not to assume an attitude of charity - it is to adopt a feeling of community."

Mr Heseltine said that with power went responsibility. "Self-help is a cynical slogan if one forgets the helpless."

The conference yesterday overwhelmingly rejected a call for the Government to legalize possession of cannabis.

Vanishing veto, page 4

## Top names back poll candidates

By Anthony Sevin  
Political Correspondent

The Chesterfield by-election campaign will be formally launched by leading personalities from all three main parties today.

Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic Party leader, will be first, with a visit to the Derbyshire town to support the Liberal-Alliance challenger, Mr Max Payne.

Next Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary will speak for Mr Nicholas Bourne, the Conservative.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, will then appear at a campaign conference to support Tony Benn.

Chesterfield looks likely to become a political punchbag during the next three weeks. Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, is due tomorrow, and Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Denis Healey, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, and Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, will all visit Chesterfield.

The Alliance hopes to exploit Mr Benn's reputation as a controversial left-winger to snatch the Labour stronghold.

The Conservatives want to maintain their vote.

The big test, however, is for Labour's Kinnock-Hattersley leadership. By throwing their weight behind Mr Benn they hope to show that Labour's new unity image has overcome previous Bennite divisions.

General election: E. G. Varley (Lab) 23,831; N. Bourne (C) 16,118; M. Payne (L-All) 9,708. Labour majority 7,713.

"I will go to Moscow on behalf of the President," Mr George Bush told a small group of journalists in London on Saturday, "saying: 'Look, we are here to tell you that we want to work with whoever you indicate is appropriate and we want to move things forward towards peace and we want to see reduced tension.'"

Time and again throughout his conversation with us the Vice-President returned to this theme. He hoped the emergence of a new leader in the Soviet Union would be a turning-point in East-West relations, and it was Mr Bush's gut feeling that President Reagan would be willing to meet the new Soviet leader sometime this year. The United States is willing. That was the message that the Vice-President was eager to convey with all the insistence at his command.

Whether this rush to parley is the right way to deal with the Soviet Union, it is certainly the right way to deal with public opinion in the West. This is the time that most people throughout western Europe have been longing to hear for some years. It is also a time that the United States is willing to meet the new Soviet leader upon receptive ears in the United States. That Mr Bush, along with the President and other senior officials, should now be rendering it with such force is a reminder that this is an administration which has a particularly sensitive understanding of American opinion in its conduct of foreign policy.

Art of moving back without retreating

This was also evident in Mr Bush's comments on Lebanon. The intentions that emerged were clear, whatever may happen in practice. It is to be a delicate exercise in the art of moving back without calling it a retreat. The key word is

## Council challenge on civil defence rules

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Government regulations requiring local authorities to prepare civil defence have run into trouble. Councils opposing the regulations say that unless the Government makes clear its assumption for attack, proper plans to deal with it cannot be prepared.

Nuclear free zone authorities are making a series of demands for information from the Government including:

● Likely targets and the scale and nature of attack in each of their areas.

● The effects of such attacks.

● The likely effect of problems caused outside the areas.

The demands were agreed by 220 representatives of 35 authorities at a meeting last month. More than 150 authorities belong to the nuclear free movement.

The conference accepted council's opinion that to make

plans effectively it is necessary to have planning assumptions. But they acknowledge the supremacy of Parliament and recognize that the regulations are law under the Civil Defence Act 1948, an official of the Nuclear Free Zone steering committee secretariat said.

Brent Borough Council, in north London, has decided to spend no money on civil defence but to keep some as a contingency to meet the council's statutory obligations should that be necessary.

The council's decision was taken after a report by the chief executive, Mr Michael Richard, giving a warning that the council's legal position had been changed by the regulations: "The Government can now require councils to comply with their statutory responsibilities."

Britain's infrastructure, such as roads and sewerage, continues to decline because of lack of government investment, the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors says in its latest workload survey, published today.

The federation says that the picture remains depressing, although larger companies are more optimistic than six months ago.

Order books show a slight improvement on the low ebb reached in the last survey, but that is largely due to the recent

upturn in orders for larger companies, for which a few expensive contracts could distort the overall picture.

Of the 233 firms surveyed, "an alarming" 15 per cent reported no civil engineering work orders, while the general level remains very low.

There is a slight improvement in employment since the last survey three months ago, led by the larger businesses.

The vast majority of companies expect orders for new work and repair and maintenance to decline during this year.

## Engineering 'depressed'

By Christopher Warman,  
Property Correspondent

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## Commentary

United States has been driven humbly from the field, that he has lost Lebanon or that he had earlier sacrificed the lives of American boys in vain.

Paras, and even members of Congress, may not approve of American ships continuing to shell targets in Lebanon. But I suspect that these objections will seem too fastidious to most people in the United States. They have never been opposed in recent years to an assertion of American power. What they object to is an appearance of American futility, and the loss of American lives to no evident purpose.

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## Greenham 'only base for cruise'

The Ministry of Defence last night denied that cruise missiles have been deployed in Britain at bases other than Greenham Common, in Berkshire.

The denial came after peace campers at the Lakenheath base, in Suffolk, claimed that the missiles had been delivered there before Christmas.

Peace women at Greenham Common have been questioning whether cruise missiles are stored there, pointing to what they claim is lax security, which has enabled many of them to enter the base undetected.

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## New calls for women's health care inquiry

By Nicholas Timmins

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, is being asked to request the Equal Opportunities Commission to examine the provision of health care for women and to review the position of women in medicine as he has refused to conduct such an inquiry himself.

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's social services spokesman, and Ms Jo Richardson, spokesperson on women's rights, have written to Mr Clarke in a campaign stemming partly from the impending closure of the South London Hospital for Women, the last women's general hospital in the National Health Service, and their claim that more women wish to be treated by women doctors.

## Police retain papers seized from journalist

Scotland Yard is still holding documents confiscated from Mr Duncan Campbell, the investigative journalist, after he had fallen off his bicycle on Thursday (Rupert Morris writes). A report may be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Campbell, speaking with difficulty yesterday as a result of facial cuts sustained in the accident, said: "I had a bicycle accident about which I still have amnesia."

Mr Campbell, who was one of three defendants in the 1978 Official Secrets Act trial over an article about the work of the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham, has since specialized in investigations into the intelligence services.

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## Best skiing buy is Spain, with Aviemore good value too, survey shows

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Skiers get the best winter sports holiday bargains in Spain, both on and off the slopes. But out of nine skiing destinations surveyed by Thomas Cook, Aviemore, in the Cairngorms, also emerges as one of the better buys.

Aviemore is the fourth cheapest destination but if the typical costs of camera film, five postcards and four glasses a day of Glühwein are added, Aviemore is rather cheaper than Mayrhofen in Austria. Aviemore's weekly total would then be £252.53, compared with the Austrian resort's £255.40.

A glass of Glühwein in Aviemore is put at 70p, compared with £1.28 in Mayrhofen. Wine is cheap in France, Spain and Italy. Beer drinkers find the best prices in Aviemore.

A dinner for two is cheapest in Austria, at £8.75, while Les Arcs in France is the most expensive at £19.28. In Chamonix dinner costs £9.22.

The best buy for a week's ski school, is in Austria, at about £30.

Switzerland remains the most expensive skiing destination, with Verbier about 60 per cent dearer than Sol y Nieve in Spain. Price increases recently in Italy have pushed the former skiing bargain basement up the cost scale, bringing its top resorts like Courmayeur more in line with Austria and France.

Mr Andrew Barrett, Thomas Cook's marketing director, said: "Price is not of course everything. Many of the more expensive resorts in the survey offer more facilities and a greater number of ski runs and lifts than the cheaper rivals."

But winter sports holiday-makers are sensitive to value for money, judging from the pattern of this season's bookings, he added.

Spain's share of the ski market is still small, at 4 per cent, although it has grown markedly since last season. Austria should secure rather more than half the market this season. Italy's share is slipping to about 16 per cent of overall bookings, reflecting the recent relative strength of the lira.

It looks as if the ski market will remain static this season at about 180,000 package holidays overall, according to Thomas Cook.

Cost of Holiday Living - Skiing	Sol y Nieve (Spain)	Chamonix (France)	Aviemore (Scotland)	Mayrhofen (Austria)	Courmayeur (Italy)	Verbier (Switzerland)	Les Arcs (France)	Crans Montana (Switzerland)	Wolsee (Switzerland)
Dinner for two daily	12.27	9.22	14.00	8.75	14.20	12.41	19.28	16.13	17.74
House Wine 70cl daily	2.27	2.89	5.00	5.47	2.60	5.47	2.10	5.81	5.81
Half Litre Beer daily	.41	1.06	.35	.80	.85	.91	.63	.81	.81
Cup of Coffee daily	.36	.32	.50	.73	.60	.73	.63	.55	.55
Hire, Skis/Poles	16.22	16.76	16.00	13.87	13.89	11.82	26.82	28.39	17.74
Hire, Boots	6.31	6.71	7.25	7.30	8.42	5.91	9.56	11.29	8.39
Lift Pass	27.73	37.30	32.00	34.67	43.37	33.21	40.82	43.87	63.87
Ski School	22.45	29.34	24.00	30.66	31.58	30.55	19.28	22.58	24.84
Total for One Week	£185.27	£194.2	£224.15	£207.46	£235.16	£299.61	£263.78	£278.75	£298.73

## Learning how to love the school micro

Teachers all over Britain are being catapulted into the age of the microcomputer as tiny flicking screens are switched on in their classrooms. LUCY HODGES, Education Correspondent, attended a course on the new technology to see if she could learn to love the micro.

The microcomputer really has arrived. All British secondary schools and 18,000 primary schools now have at least one machine, provided with aid from the Department of Industry as part of the Government's drive to update skills and improve industrial competitiveness.

The micro, of which schools have a choice of three British machines, comes on condition that the schools raise half the cash and that the education authority provides training for teachers.

There is nothing to fear. The micro is harmless equipment, more obedient than the average pupil. At its best, it is either extremely useful, performing dreary tasks in seconds, or positively entertaining, providing hours of fun with an imaginative game.

It all depends on what it has been told to do. The program - the sequence of instructions with which it has been primed - is boring, the chances are you will be bored. The important thing is the software (the programs) which should be "user-friendly", though many hollins like to discuss hardware (the machines).

My course, designed for ignorant journalists, was at the Independent Schools Micro-electronics Centre in Oxford. We were introduced to the BBC micro, which, in common with other machines, looks and works like a typewriter keyboard.

Connected to the keyboard was a monitor, resembling a television screen, and a disk drive into which one loads the programs, which are on floppy disks.

One of the most difficult things to grasp is the new technology jargon, particularly

## Chip Shop clicks with listeners

By David Hewson Arts Correspondent

The most popular part of Barry Norman's new programme is likely to startle uninitiated listeners. After Mr Norman's customary urbane introduction, his gentle tones give way to minutes of apparently unintelligible clicks and beeps.

The effect may seem like gibberish, but for Britain's burgeoning home computer population it is the equivalent of electronic Esperanto.

Only four weeks after Mr Norman's BBC Radio 4 programme, *The Chip Shop*, went on air, the BBC is creaking under the weight of 30,000 listeners' letters demanding to know more about the system which enables the corporation to transmit software over the air.

We were taught to write our own program for calculating VAT, an exercise which tested our ability to follow simple instructions on the micro as well as our ability to calculate percentages.

We learned to write a program simulating the laborious processes scientists have had to undertake in the past, such as rolling dice, to establish reproduction or decay rates. This kind of thing appears in biology, physics and chemistry examination syllabuses.

One was a program of Gregor Mendel's experiment on smooth and wrinkled peas to test how often crossbreeding would result in wrinkled progeny. The answer is about one in three times and the micro established this within minutes.

We were allowed into the secrets of the machine's data-processing function, enabling journalists to produce perfect copy without paper and typewriter ribbons and removing the need for printers and hot metal.

A story was written, subtitled and finally given the headline, "Hacks crack computer codes", by Lunchtime O'Basic. There is no reason why teachers should not crack the same codes.

More than one home in 10 in Britain now has a computer and a further record growth is expected this year, according to a report published yesterday.

Although a decline in whisky sales may have bottomed out, that market is likely to be affected by drinkers switching to wine, so a disproportionate rise in revenue from spirits could prove counter-productive.

Wine box sales in Britain are now worth almost £100m a year and still growing fast, according to figures published yesterday which show that in just over three years since their launch in the UK, wine boxed in account for almost 11 per cent of all table wines sold (the Press Association reports).



The collapsed floor of the party flat, above a disused food shop in east London. Left: Miss Fatima Djemal, whose injured father owns the flat. (Photographs: Tony Weaver).

## Floor collapse at teenagers' party injures 65

By Michael Horsnell

A girl aged 17 was critically ill in hospital last night and two others were seriously injured after the collapse of a floor and ceiling at a St Valentine's party attended by 200 young people in east London.

About 65 people were taken to hospital early yesterday

morning after guests who had been dancing in two first floor rooms above a disused food shop plunged 10ft on to people congregating below.

As police and firemen rescued the injured from the rubble of the flat in Plashet Grove, East Ham, Miss Gina Randall, of Howard Road, was found unconscious with head

injuries. She was transferred to Oldchurch Hospital in Romford, Essex and placed on a ventilator.

Miss Fatima Djemal, aged 18, who gave the party, told *The Times*: "I was pouring out some drinks downstairs when suddenly there was panicking and screaming everywhere. I couldn't see anything for dust. I

couldn't open the door at the back and the only thing to do was smash the window."

During a search for her Turkish-born father, Mr Shefget Djemal, aged 38, who owns the flat, Miss Djemal fainted and was taken to hospital. Her father is in intensive care at London Hospital, where his condition was said to be stable.

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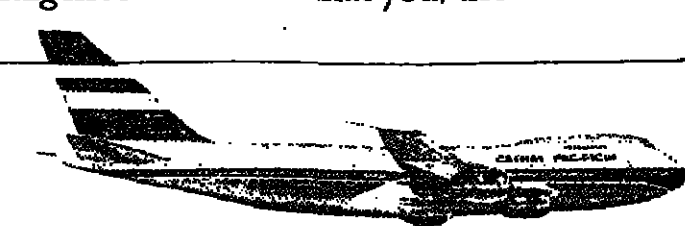
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## Pre-Budget increases likely on beer prices

By Our Commercial Editor

Draught beer drinkers, particularly in the south of England, could soon face selective trade increases of 2p a pint. Most brewers have already put through increases on packaged beers equivalent to 2p or more on a large can.

With beer sales in the dole-ridden public houses alone want to add another 1p to a pint and there is growing speculation that at least two of the big brewers will lead the way with such increases in their managed houses. But the brewers are expected to want an additional 1p for themselves.

There is also a growing threat that the Chancellor will add 2p to a pint in the Budget while cutting wine prices by 20p a bottle, as a result of a European Court of Justice judgement that taxes on wine and beer should be brought more into equilibrium.

Adjusting the wine-beer taxation should be spaced over two years, with only 1p being added in the coming Budget, the Chancellor has been urged by the Brewers' Society.

A pre-Budget trade increase in draught beer prices would disrupt the pattern over the next few years when brewers have phasing increases almost annually through the summer and autumn.

Such pre-Budget increases would make the Chancellor's arithmetic on excise duties more complicated. If the trade and Budget rises added 4p to pint, sales could be affected and the Treasury's revenue from beer reduced.

Although a decline in whisky sales may have bottomed out, that market is likely to be affected by drinkers switching to wine, so a disproportionate rise in revenue from spirits could prove counter-productive.

Wine box sales in Britain are now worth almost £100m a year and still growing fast, according to figures published yesterday which show that in just over three years since their launch in the UK, wine boxed in account for almost 11 per cent of all table wines sold (the Press Association reports).



# Immigrants facing court detained in police cells

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Immigrants due to be sent out of Britain are among people detained in police cells because of their case for release before a court.

The Home Office said it had no wish to hold people in custody when it could be avoided. But where inquiries were being pursued in particular cases, where appeals were pending or representations on someone's behalf were being considered and it was not appropriate to release the detained person it was unavoidable that they should be held.

There were powers under the Immigration Act, 1971, to hold people subject to those provisions in custody.

The Home Office said of police cells: "The Government is anxious to ensure that no persons are detained in this way for any longer than is necessary."

Though the cells were emptied in time to meet Mr Brittan's deadline, and he wrote an article in *The Times* on January 4 explaining how he kept his promise, he also said in it: "I cannot exclude the possibility of using police cells again if exceptional circumstances arise."

But he was confident that "once the immediate period ahead of us is over, our more long-term policies will begin to have effect."

## Commons clash likely on Moonies' forum

By Pat Healy

A parliamentary clash is expected this week about the way in which leading opponents in the nuclear debate came to accept invitations to speak at an international conference co-sponsored by the Unification Church, commonly known as the "Moonies".

The Ministry of Defence refused to be associated with the conference after investigating its sponsorship, but did not warn leading British speakers who the sponsors were.

The speakers included Mr Julian Critchley, Conservative MP for Aldershot and an officer of the Conservative defence committee.

Mr Lawrence Freedman of the Royal Institute of National Affairs (Chatham House), Mr E. P. Thompson and Canon Paul Oestreicher of the British Council of Churches. Military speakers included Air Vice Marshal S. W. B. Menaul, who retired from the RAF in 1968, Admiral Sir James Eberle and General Pierre Gallois from France.



Rider's problem: Mr Daljeet Kalirai, aged 18, a stable lad from Southampton, wants to become the first Sikh to ride on a British race course. But first he has to find a helmet to fit over his turban. Mr Kalirai, employed by trainer Mr Toby Balding of Fyfield House, near Andover, at present uses a helmet which does not meet Jockey Club rules.

## Top lawyers face rise in premiums

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

Solicitors have voted for a change in the way they are compulsorily insured for negligence so that the large City firms will have to shoulder a greater share of the costs.

The vote is the latest move in a long-running dispute between solicitors and the Law Society over its so-called master policy scheme.

Small firms and sole practitioners argue that the present system for assessing premiums, on a flat rate basis for each solicitor principal, means that they are subsidizing the large firms who are the big fee-earners and whose mistakes can be more costly. They favour a scheme whereby a firm's gross fees will be taken into account.

The Law Society, which has put forward its own proposals for change, favours a "cut-off" or tapering of premiums above a certain level of gross fees.

But strong opposition to that was confirmed in the latest Law Society poll of its members, which showed support for a scheme put forward by the British Legal Association.

## Call to curb overseas doctors

By Nicholas Timmins

Work permits should be issued to overseas doctors to limit the length of time they can come to Britain to train, the British Medical Association has suggested to Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary.

The aim would be both to improve "haphazard" training of overseas doctors and to tackle the problem of there being more junior doctors in training than consultant posts for them to fill.

Dr John Havard, secretary of the BMA, has written to Mr Brittan saying doctors were discussing ways of improving the training for overseas doctors, but a "necessary prerequisite" was a limit on the length of time they could train.

The proposal was greeted with "horror" by Dr Krishna Koripara, secretary of the Overseas Doctors Association, which feels that overseas doctors are too often used as "pairs of hands" to run the health service.

The Department of Health and Social Security is consulting the Home Office on ways of limiting the numbers of overseas doctors.

# National veto will vanish under Strasbourg plan to restructure EEC

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The European Parliament is expected tomorrow to set off a new controversy about the future development of the Community by approving a draft treaty which would end the national veto in decision-making after 10 years and vastly increase the powers of the Parliament.

The Labour Party delegation at Strasbourg and a comfortable majority of the 60 Conservative MEPs will vote against the draft treaty on the European Union, which would, in effect, supersede the Treaty of Rome, but they are almost certain to be defeated.

When the Parliament decided last year on the principle of drawing up a new treaty, the majority was heavily in favour, though Labour MEPs voted against and the Conservatives abstained.

This time the Conservatives have agreed to have a free vote. It is anticipated that most of them, given the present attitude of the Prime Minister and the Government towards the EEC, will refrain from backing a move so clearly designed to bring about greater integration.

The draft treaty is the work of four leading European legal

experts, including Professor Francis Jacobs, of King's College, London.

It envisages a replacement of the Community's present legislative framework, in which the Council of Ministers is the decisive authority, with a new two-chamber system in which the council would still retain the final say. The European Parliament would be the lower chamber and the Council the upper chamber, with power to reject legislative proposals in the form in which they emerged from the Parliament.

But the proposal to end the veto after a 10-year "transitional period" will elicit fierce opposition in many member states, especially in Britain. The veto is seen simultaneously as a huge impediment to closer integration and a vital protector of individual nations' interests.

For many Conservative MEPs the veto proposal is the sticking-point. Mr Derek Prag, Conservative MEP for Hertfordshire, who played a leading part in drawing up the treaty and will vote for it tomorrow, said yesterday that he had attempted to get it amended so that the veto could still be used

after he 10 years in a limited way on vital national issues, but he had been outvoted.

Mr Prag said that he was not against the veto if it was used properly and only occasionally. "But the way the veto has been used has been harmful to the Community. It was never envisaged that it would be used, as it has been, by civil servants on the most detailed issues."

There is also another proposal that is bound to arouse opposition in member countries. This would allow the treaty to be brought into operation if it was approved by a majority of member states, provided that their combined populations total two-thirds of the Community. It is feared by opponents that this would lead to the establishment of an EEC "inner core", which would proceed faster towards union than the other countries wish.

The draft treaty, if approved tomorrow, will then be considered by national parliaments. Mr Prag said the Parliament had at least given the new Parliament, to be elected in June, a starting-point from which it could get on with the job of making the Community work better.



Mr Alex Ekwueme: Vice-President in jail

## Buhari says Ekwueme was corrupt

Lagos (Reuters) - The Nigerian military ruler, General Mohammed Buhari, was quoted as saying that the former Vice-President, Mr Alex Ekwueme, was corruptly involved in government contracts.

Mr Ekwueme, one of more than 80 former politicians held at a maximum-security jail in Lagos, was "consistently involved in contract deals on the new projected capital of Abuja, petroleum and certain sectors of the economy", General Buhari said in an interview with the *Sunday Concord Weekly*.

General Buhari also said that the former Transport Minister, Dr Umaru Dikko and Chief Adisa Akinloye, chairman of the party led by ousted President Shehu Shagari, consistently appeared along with Mr Ekwueme in big government contract deals. But he said nothing had been found against Mr Shagari.

## Hijacker held

New York (Reuters) - A man armed with a sub-machine gun, who hijacked an American Airlines jet in Haiti and ordered it to take him to New York, was arrested when the plane landed at Kennedy airport.

## Nuclear leak

New York (Reuters) - A nuclear power plant at Buchanan, 30 miles north of New York City, was shut down because water with small amounts of radioactivity was leaking into its steam generating system, the owners said.

## 4,500-year egg

Peking (AP) - Archaeologists have unearthed a 4,500-year-old whole egg at a Neolithic site near Zhengzhou, in the Henan province of central China. Smaller than a chicken's egg, it was found in a layer of earth along with polished stone axes and spades.

## Sign of times

Harare (Reuters) - Zimbabwe Town Planning Minister, ordered a signpost in the northern town of Chinohoyi "Cecil Rhodes Street" to be removed as offensive and a colonial relic.

# We can help you lick your production problems

Success in business must involve making the most of any marketing opportunities that may present themselves. Unfortunately, venture capital is in short supply and few companies can afford to have valuable capital tied up in additional plant or staff. And this was the problem facing Mr. Manfredi, Managing Director of Lewis Bros., the country's largest independent choc-ice manufacturer.

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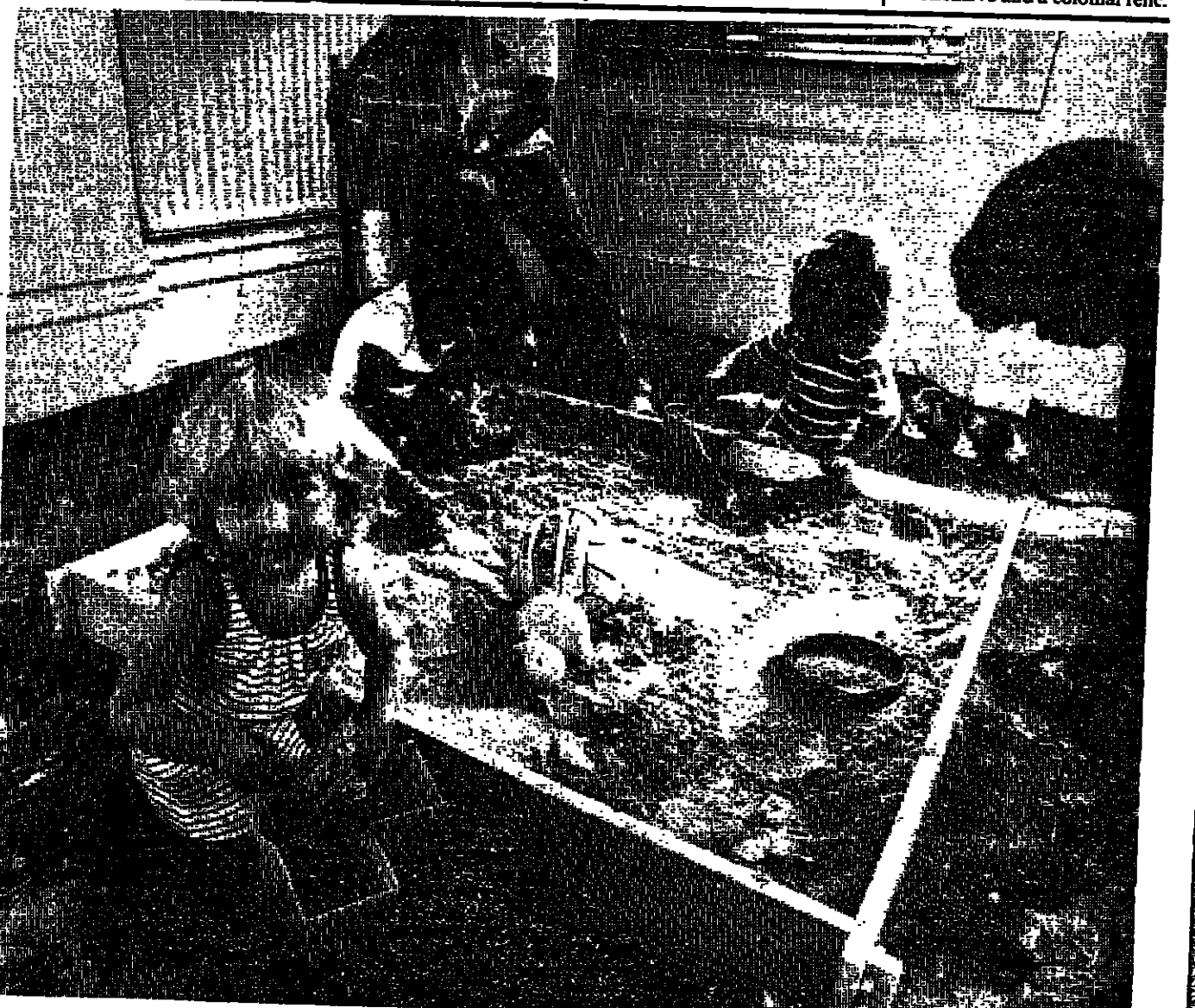
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## While Katy played yesterday, her mother made eighteen people feel a bit better

Katy's mother is one of those nurses who seem to make the whole ward happier when they are on duty. Yesterday, she cared for her patients with a bright and kindly attitude - and a quiet mind also, for she knew Katy was being well looked after at Barnardo's local day care centre.

As a single parent, Katy's mother has faced many problems, and the last three years have been very tough. Now, with Barnardo's help, there is a new beginning. Since she returned to nursing six months ago, Katy's mother has been able to provide for her small daughter and herself, and begin to furnish their tiny flat. Best of all, she can see the benefit to Katy of mixing with other children and learning through play. Barnardo's caring makes a difference to the



**Barnardo's Day Care**

community, where a great deal of their work is undertaken. Barnardo's specialised units for physically or mentally handicapped children, and their fostering and adoption centres are well known. But the latest developments focus on the problems of youngsters under stress. Currently, new projects are planned for teenagers who are in great need of guidance.

As the needs of children increase, costs continue to climb. Please, would you help by sending a donation to Dr. Barnardo's, or by remembering their work in your will. That way you'll help to make over 9,000 children feel a bit better.

Barnardo's will gladly send you information literature if you would like to write to them.

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## Mondale survives Iowa television ordeal with his seven rivals

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

It is sometimes hard to detect who the eight Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination regard as their main opponent. President Reagan or each other.

During a two-and-a-half-hour debate in Des Moines, Iowa, on Saturday, the eight contenders spent as much time and vehemence attacking each other's records as they did the President's.

Although they were united to their condemnation of Mr Reagan's foreign and domestic policies, most people who listened to the televised debate were left confused about what the Democratic alternatives are.

The debate, sponsored by the *Des Moines Register* newspaper, is considered one of the most important opening events of the election campaign as it takes place just over a week before the Iowa precinct caucuses, the first contest of the presidential year.

Since 1976, when an Iowa victory significantly aided Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign, the caucuses have been regarded as an important initial test of voter sentiment.

Opinion polls show that Mr Walter Mondale, the Democratic front-runner, should emerge an easy winner in Iowa on February 20, which explains why he was constantly sniped at by his seven rivals.



Mr Jackson: Colourful and loquacious.

Senator John Glenn attacked him for being the candidate of special interest power brokers who promise everything. Senator Gary Hart accused him of selling out to organized labour, while Mr Reubin Askew claimed that his record on gas deregulation was linked to big

campaign contributions by a gas pipeline builder.

Mr Mondale responded with patience, good humour and dignity, winning one of the longest rounds of applause during the debate when he declared: "I have led an honourable, decent public and private life. And I have never permitted anything in my private life - including making a living - interfere with the integrity of my public life."

Mr Glenn also came under attack from all sides by challengers who are trying to oust him from his second-place in the polls. The Rev Jesse Jackson, who again emerged as the most colourful, most loquacious and most applauded of the eight candidates, attacked Mr Glenn over his attitude towards American investment in South Africa, while Senator Ernest Hollings alleged that Mr Glenn was "all confused in that capsule of yours" after remarks he had made about workers' rights.

The eight ended their verbal sparring, however, when the debate turned to the Reagan Administration's policies on Lebanon, arms control and the economy.

Mr Mondale urged Iowa voters to use the President's planned visit to Des Moines on February 20 to condemn his failure to make any progress in arms control talks with the Soviet Union.



Snowy greeting: The Princess of Wales, visiting Oslo for a ballet performance, meets children outside the British Embassy where she planted a tree.

## Socialists will stay in Swiss coalition

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The Swiss Social Democrats meeting in Bern decided yesterday by 773 votes to 511 that the party will remain in the 25-year-old Government coalition.

Under the so-called "magic formula", Socialists, Radicals (Conservatives) and Christian Democrats each have two Cabinet seats and the Central Democratic Union one seat.

The outcome of the vote at the party's extraordinary congress had been largely a foregone conclusion since the beginning of this month, when it became apparent that the rank-and-file took the view that the country was affluent enough for all to have a slice of the cake.

An attempt to have the issue put to the party's 50,000 members through a referendum also failed, gaining only 235 votes of the necessary 536.

The two-day congress saw some rousing oratory from militants convinced that the party is suffering from complacency. While some advocates of remaining in the Government agree, they held that it was better to stay in. All were gratified by the salutary attention given to the issue by the Swiss media since the party's 110-member Central Committee last month recommended quitting the coalition.

## Hanged man leaves a last message

Delhi (Reuters) - Maghbool Butt, the Kashmiri secessionist leader hanged on Saturday, eight days after the kidnapping and murder of an Indian diplomat in Britain, left a last message for his wife and children: the Press Trust of India said yesterday. It said Butt asked his lawyer on the eve of the execution to pass on a message saying: "Tell them I pray for them and they should pray for me. When my children grow up they will know what is what in life."

A Kashmiri extremist group, which kidnapped and killed the Indian diplomat in England, demanded Butt's release from jail.

Butt, who was 50, was a founding member of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front. He spent the last eight years awaiting execution for two murders. His lawyer said Butt believed his execution was in retaliation for the diplomat's murder.

Indian security forces remained on alert at airports and in the northern border state of Jammu and Kashmir fearing violence after Butt's hanging.

The man who once boasted in court "Nobody has the rope which could hang me", was hanged in Tihar jail in Delhi soon after dawn, prison officials said.

## Avalanches trigger tourist rush for home

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

After five days of avalanches which killed a dozen people, including four children, western Austria slowly returned to normal yesterday as the weather improved and roads and passes were reopened.

Several skiers, including one Briton missing since Thursday and presumed dead, returned at the weekend to their hotel after spending two days in the open in sub-zero temperatures.

The improvement in weather came too late to prevent ugly scenes in isolated hotels as thousands of Austrians attempted to leave their chalets to return home. Austrian police reported a chaotic lack of discipline which led to arguments over who should leave first.

Meanwhile, Vienna University accused local governments in Tirol and Vorarlberg of negligence, saying that the areas in the greatest danger from avalanches, the so-called red zones, often contained as many as 400 hotels.

Despite statutes designed to prevent construction of hotels in these areas, the university claimed, hotels were still being built there.

● Chancellor booted: Austria's attempts to remember peacefully the fiftieth anniversary of its short but bloody civil war were marred yesterday as demonstrators booed the Austrian Chancellor and his Minister of Defence at a remembrance ceremony in the Karl Marx Hof on the outskirts of Vienna.

In 1934 the Austrian Army bombarded workers' flats in the Karl Marx Hof with howitzers, killing hundreds including women and children.

## Shuttles to land at take-off point

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Future space shuttles will return directly to the Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral, Florida, after Challenger's successful landing there at the end of its eight-day mission.

It was the first time that the shuttle had landed at its launching base in Florida. This has been a long-time goal of the shuttle programme because it saves money and time. Most of the others have landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

"The real meaning of the landing here is that we cut six to eight days out of our workflow," said General James Abrahamson, associate administrator for space flight at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The next shuttle flight, the eleventh, is set for early April and will be NASA's first attempt to retrieve and repair a damaged satellite in space. Altogether six shuttle flights are scheduled to take off and land from Cape Canaveral this year.

The mission that ended on Saturday morning was dogged by disappointment but also produced some dazzling achievements. Two communications satellites and a target balloon were lost, and the shuttle's mechanical arm malfunctioned before the final space walk. But the landing in Florida and the two spacewalks, which proved that backpacks could be used on repair missions in space, were important successes.

The shuttle itself also performed well, with only a handful of minor technical problems.

## Computer may sort out short-wave confusion

From Our Correspondent, Geneva

A new attempt is being made to establish a basis of accommodation - at least technical - in the present disorder of short-wave broadcasting by means of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) using a computer to determine an "equitable minimum" of frequency allocations for each country's legitimate needs.

This is the outcome of the 115-nation world administrative radio conference, which ended on Saturday with a compromise providing "a guaranteed minimum in the most difficult situations" caused by the simultaneous presence on the air of an hourly average of some 1,000 transmitters round the clock.

Countries will file their requirements - time of day and areas to which broadcasts are directed - with the ITU, whose computers will indicate optimum frequencies on the basis of propagation into various test points in the target areas. Changes for seasonal sun spot

activity will be set aside at six-monthly intervals.

The final seal of approval for this "computerized compatibility determination" is to be put by a further conference in 1986.

It is also expected to set a 20-year period for replacement of existing double sideband transmissions by single sideband (with 4.5 kilo Hertz band widths, half the existing width) so doubling the number of available channels.

While "extremely preoccupied by harmful interference" (jamming) the conference, acknowledging this to be altogether political, had to make do with a resolution asking the ITU to monitor jamming and inform the 1986 conference regarding offenders' identity - already well known, with the Soviet block taking first place.

The next meeting will also allocate new short-wave frequencies becoming available on being released by other forms of broadcasting by 1990.

## Guerrillas kill pilot

Cairo (Reuters) - An Australian pilot was killed by unidentified guerrillas in an attack on a construction site in southern Sudan on Friday when six other foreign workers were abducted, diplomatic sources said in Cairo yesterday.

A foreign affairs spokesman in Melbourne named the dead airman as Peter Clarke, who

was working for the French construction company CCI.

The sources said that he probably died when gunmen attacked the hut and was not taken hostage with six other foreigners. The fate of the others was not yet known. They are all believed to be French nationals. The gunmen were thought to be secessionist

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# Lords, it's not cricket.

**A**t present, British Telecom purchases 95% of its equipment from British companies, such as GEC, Plessey and STC. If B.T. is privatised, it will no longer follow a 'Buy British' policy, and will be able to buy heavily worldwide.

Many foreign equipment suppliers are already gearing up to march into the British market, with a range of loss-leaders.

It wouldn't be so bad if our British manufacturers could sell their products into markets abroad — but most of our rivals do not allow imports of telecommunications equipment.

It's not fair, it's not cricket. That's why an important amendment to the Telecommunications Bill, now in the House of Lords, seeks to redress the balance. In effect it says that foreign companies can only sell to us if they first agree to open their markets to British firms.

If this doesn't happen, the effects on employment and factory closures in the UK could be catastrophic.

# Lords, it's not cricket.

British Telecommunications Unions Committee,  
14/15 Bridgewater Square, London EC2Y 8BS.

## China's agrarian reform lags as peasants feel backlash from cities

By David Bonavia  
Peking

The Chinese leadership is moderately well pleased by last year's grain harvest of some 380 million tonnes, but recognize it is still only running on the spot to keep the country fed.

Problems have surfaced in the reformed agricultural system, where peasants for several years have been allowed to decide on their own choice of crops to grow and enabled to get realistic prices for them.

The people's communes set up by the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung in 1958 have been a dead letter since 1982 and their political role has been officially written out of the national constitution. The leadership of Mr Deng Xiaoping considers they killed peasant initiative and suppressed natural market forces tending to higher productivity and prosperity in the rural areas.

Peasants incomes in many parts of the country have risen in the meantime to the point where industrial workers and white-collar employees are grumbling that the farmers are being pampered while food prices in the cities have been slowly increasing.

In recent months many enterprising and successful farmers became alarmed by the apparent trend towards a less permissive policy on the part of the Communist Party.

The official media have tried to allay these fears. There were publicized cases of rural producers who foresaw profitable occupations because they feared they would be victimized in a new upsurge of leftist decision-making.

It is not surprising if China's 800 million or so peasants have reservations about fully accepting the party's advice to "enrich themselves". From the mid-1950s until the virtual abolition of the people's communes, millions of peasants and their dependants were even made destitute or even imprisoned for pursuing what the national leadership chose to call "capitalist tendencies".

The people's communes were Mao's blueprint for an egalitarian, totally socialized rural economy in which people



Rural showplace: Shenzhen commune, part of a system now under a cloud (Photograph by Keith Smith).

would work as hard as they could and receive no more wages than their neighbour. By 1960 this was shown to be not only absurd, but leading to disastrous famine. Mr Deng and his colleagues had to oversee the drafting of new guidelines for the communes which preserved their political prestige while modifying their interference.

Thereafter, the legendary stubbornness of the peasants took over, and although lip-service was paid daily to the leftist policy, the peasants just worked less and let the state bear the burden of food subsidies. China became a leading grain importer.

In 1979, only three years after Mao's death, the first hint of abolition of the communes was given. By now they have no important role other than providing secondary education, medical clinics and other such services for the peasants. The essential unit of rural output is — as it has been in China since time immemorial — the family.

This has resulted in a considerable increase in production of profitable crops, such as vegetables, oilseeds and tobacco, but the state still has to insist that enough peasant families will contract to deliver grain for the cities every year.

## Pentagon admits defeat by press

From Christopher Thomas  
Washington

The United States military, grudgingly and without the slightest hint of remorse, has accepted defeat in a long-running battle with the American press over the fiasco it created in refusing to let journalists cover military operations in Grenada.

Within hours of the dawn invasion on October 25 the skies around the little airport in Barbados were dotted with aircraft crammed with hundreds of journalists, camera crews, photographers, soundmen, and technicians all heading — so they thought — to the west.

Long before Barbados saw another dawn, the best suites in the best hotels bulged with reporters and television people, together with all the twinkling, whining and clunking array of television technology that accompanies hot stories these days.

The military would let none of it get close to Grenada until the battle was all but over and now, resulting in countless numbers of journalists taking to the water in all manner of makeshift hired boats in the hope of landing in Grenada. A few made it. Most, including myself, got nothing but a soaking.

It has since transpired that top people at the Pentagon were impressed by the way the British authorities controlled information during the Falkland campaign: it is frequently said by some of the military senior officers that "the press lost us the war in Vietnam".

In response to intense press protests, a Pentagon panel was set up to make recommendations to the Joint Chiefs of Staff on dealing with the media in future military operations. It was generally agreed by media executives that before Grenada there was never any problem.

In recent days the panel has been receiving testimony from America's largest news organizations. Also in recent days the Joint Chiefs of Staff have informed the panel that they have adopted new procedures to plan for press coverage during military actions.

According to retired Major-General Winant, Stille, and other panel members, the Joint Chiefs of Staff by this action have indicated a recognition by the military that blocking press coverage of the Grenada invasion was a mistake that should not be repeated.

As evidence of a shift of approach, panel members cite a statement of "principles of information" issued by Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, directing military officers to make information "fully and readily available" to the public, Congress and the press.

The original decision to bar the press from Grenada appears to have been taken by the American commander on the ground. There is considerable suspicion, however, that the Reagan Administration was happy to let it stand for fear of bad publicity if the operation stumbled. At first it worked: it was some time, for example, before the world learned of the accidental US bombing of a mental hospital in St George's resulting in the death of many inmates.

The Pentagon panel — comprising eight military representatives and six former journalists — has now agreed that the media should have access to information about military operations "to the maximum degree possible, consistent with the security of the mission and the safety of troops".

The affirmation of that hitherto tacitly acknowledged principle has been welcomed by news organizations.

## British put proposal on chemical weapons

By Henry Stanhope  
Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain will launch its first important initiative for 12 months at the Geneva talks on banning chemical weapons tomorrow. Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, will present a new proposal for tackling problems over verification, which have obstructed progress towards a treaty.

Because the manufacture of lethal gases and the munitions to deliver them can easily be concealed, the West has always insisted on foolproof measures to ensure that all countries are complying with any ban on production and stockpiling of chemical weapons.

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, indicated in 1982 for the first time that Moscow might be prepared to accept some form of on-site inspection which until then it had firmly ruled out at all arms control talks.

Last year, the Soviet Union tabled a draft treaty which similarly raised Western hopes over a suitable agreement on verification procedures. But the Russians have so far failed to disclose further details.

The British proposal goes one further than mere routine inspection of each other's facilities, by outlining a system for challenging any country whose international suspicions are aroused.

Last summer, the Russians hinted even that some form of limited challenge procedure might be acceptable to them.

Moscow proposed a European ban on chemical weapons earlier this year although a European only ban is considered by the West to be inadequate. Mr George Shultz, the United States Secretary of State, disclosed during the Stockholm disarmament conference that the Americans too were working on a draft treaty.

This sudden flurry of movement has raised expectation that the 40-nation disarmament conference in Geneva may be on the verge of the long-awaited breakthrough.

In disclosing his forthcoming initiative, Mr Luce referred to mistrust between East and West and the very urgent need to make progress once more on arms control issues like this.

A convention banning microbiological weapons was signed in Geneva in 1972. But this was always considered to be easier to achieve because so-called "germ" weapons have been considered of doubtful military value.

Britain destroyed all its chemical munitions after the Second World War.

The Soviet Union, however, is believed by Western intelligence to have 300,000 tons of chemical weapons.

## Mrs Marcos decides to stay in politics

From Keith Dalton  
Manila

The Philippines First Lady, Mrs Imelda Marcos, has hinted strongly that she will remain in politics. Five months ago she announced she was leaving politics.

As Minister of Human Settlements, Governor of Metropolitan Manila, and head of more than 20 government offices, Mrs Marcos is considered the second most powerful government official after her husband, who has held power for 18 years — half that time with dictatorial martial-law powers.

In identical front-page stories carried in Manila's main newspapers yesterday Mrs Marcos said that, while she still had "a little say" and could "charm" the ruling New Society movement against nominating her, she could not overlook a public clamour for her to run in next May's parliamentary elections. "I cannot deny the people. The party I can deny, but not the people," she said.

The report, issued by the official Philippines News Agency (PNA), quoted Mrs Marcos as saying that she hoped she would not be prevailed upon to run for a



Mrs Marcos: Bowing to "public clamour".

second six-year parliamentary term because she, sincerely believed it would "be useful to everyone and the country in general if I do not run." By not seeking reelection, she would have more time with the people as an ordinary citizen.

The official news agency noted that "pressure" was being exerted by local officials for Mrs Marcos to change her mind and quoted the First Lady as saying that the final decision might be out of her hands. "I leave everything to fate, destiny or God," she told the PNA.

## Storm over Turkish poll date

From Our Correspondent, Ankara

With the prospect of an embarrassing exclusion from the Council of Europe averted until May — thanks partly to the interpreters' strike in Strasbourg last week — the conservative Turkish Government of Mr Turgut Ozal is concentrating in the forthcoming local elections in an attempt to consolidate its power at home and improve its image abroad.

But the opposition parties in the 400-seat Parliament dominated by Mr Ozal's Motherland Party, claim that the Prime Minister's decision to hold the elections on March 25, instead of June 3, leaves them little time for campaigning.

The Constitutional Court is scrutinizing the local elections law at the request of the two opposition parties, who, it is believed, want the polling date postponed.

Both parliamentary opposition groups, the centre-left Populist Party and the centre-right Nationalist Democracy Party, are expected to lose heavily against three rivals, the left of centre Sodep, the conservative Right Way Party and the Islamic fundamentalist Welfare Party, which were excluded from the general election last November by the former military regime.

Mr Ozal's admission of the three outside parties to the contest shows he is confident of winning a new victory. The opinion polls bear out his optimism. They give the governing Motherland Party a clear lead despite a 10 per cent drop in the 45 per cent support which swept it to power three months ago.

The latest poll puts Sodep, which has recruited most

former Social Democrat politicians, in second place with 22.6 per cent. The Populists, who remain opposed to an alliance — let alone a merger — with Sodep, were pushed into third place with 10.2 per cent. The Right Way party, which has recruited former conservative politicians with the support of a former prime minister, Mr Süleyman Demirel, was surprisingly placed fourth with 6.3 per cent.

Nationalist Democracy and the Islamic fundamentalists brought up the rear with 5.2 and 2.6 per cent respectively. Of the sampled voters, 17.3 per cent remained undecided.

Understandably playing down the significance of the opinion polls, the opposition parties accuse the Government of monopolizing the supposedly neutral state television.

## Pakistan bans student politics

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

Student politics has been virtually banned in Pakistan. All student organizations, bodies and unions have been declared unlawful under martial law decrees in the Punjab and the North West Frontier Province. The martial-law Governor of Sindh has imposed a similar ban on student activity in his province which saw severe anti-regime riots during the second half of the last year.

According to reports from Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi and some smaller towns, the ban was met with protest meetings and demonstrations by students displaying anti-government slogans. Police used batons and staves to breakup demonstrations and were reported to have arrested a number of the organizers. The ban was, however, said to have been welcomed by Mr Justice

Aftab Husain, the Chief Justice of the Islamic shariat court in Sialkot.

So far no martial-law order banning student organizations has been issued in Baluchistan, but university and college unions have not been able to hold annual elections for the last seven years except in a few girls' colleges and a ban is expected at any time.



## Israeli Cabinet in second crisis meeting on Lebanon

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Israel's Cabinet met yesterday for the second time in less than a week to try to revise military strategy in Lebanon to take account of what are widely regarded here as the catastrophic events of the past week.

Although at least one further meeting will be needed before decisions are taken by the ministers, who hold differing views on the subject, it is now believed that in the next few months Israel will consolidate its position with a further move southwards to a new front line which does not include control over Sidon.

With its population of 150,000 Muslims, the port city of Sidon has in recent months become the centre of the growing armed resistance to the Israeli occupation. Its main street has been renamed Death Row by Israeli troops, who conduct regular patrols shooting at all suspicious objects with live ammunition and destroying unclaimed cars parked by the road.

Inside the Army, from the lowest private to the highest officer, there is mounting pressure for a limited pullback from the present Awai line to reduce the number of man-hours spent in Lebanon and cut casualties. The most favoured location for the new line is along the Zaharani river, though other possibilities, including some even farther south, are under investigation.

To maintain secrecy about Israeli intentions, yesterday's meeting - as with that held last week - was declared a session of the ministerial defence committee, whose proceedings are classified. It was attended by senior Defence Ministry and Intelligence officials, who used maps to provide ministers with a detailed briefing about the new situation on the ground.

In a radio interview before the meeting, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, issued a blunt warning to the beleaguered President Gemayel of Lebanon that if the treaty of May 17, 1983, is nullified (as is widely expected) Israel would see itself freed from all the obligations it undertook when it signed the agreement.

This warning was seen both as a signal to the United States about the store Israel set by the agreement - only its second with an Arab state - and a way

of stating that some Israeli troops are likely to remain on Lebanese soil indefinitely if the terms are abrogated.

There is no doubt that the result would be a much more defined partition of Lebanon into Israeli and Syrian spheres of influence, it was said.

In the interview, Mr Shamir said: "If the Lebanese element, the Lebanese Government, no longer participates in the security arrangements, we will have to deal with those arrangements in a unilateral manner or by relying on other elements. In any case, we will ensure the security of Israel's north, with the agreement or without it."

Despite the secrecy surrounding the policy making process, another Cabinet member, Mr Mordechai Zipori, the Communications Minister, had outlined earlier the approach now being adopted by the Government. "We are trying to find a way to leave ourselves means, or a situation, which will enable us to maintain supervision - and control, in so far as is necessary - over what goes on in southern Lebanon," he said.

"In my estimation, several mistakes were made in our assessment of the situation in Lebanon and - to put it mildly - we are now suffering the consequences. The sole problem which now interests Israel is that of the Galilee and of preventing any possible reorganization of the terrorists."

That point was emphasized after yesterday's marathon session when Mr Dan Meridor, the Cabinet secretary, denied reports in the Hebrew press that Israel was considering launching any military action - either unilaterally or jointly with the Gamayel regime.

Despite the wish of most Israelis to extricate themselves from the Lebanese quagmire, the outstanding problem now remains finding an effective local militia force able to provide a viable security belt in their absence.

Mainly because of the Shia Muslim victories last week in Beirut, Mr Uri Labrani, the influential coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, is now known to be pessimistic about the chances of reaching such agreement with the Shia militias in the south.

## Corpses have no problem crossing the Beirut front line Wave of approval reserved for the dead

From Robert Flak, Beirut

They took a body across the Beirut front line yesterday in a coffin and some militia cause whose home by preposterous mischance was alongside the Christian, eastern sector of the city. It was carried in an ambulance with a siren that wailed quotations from the Koran while a woman in the passenger seat held up a poorly coloured photograph of a serious young man with a mustache and a neat khaki uniform.

A car of screaming relatives followed, the men with staring faces, the black-scarved women ululating and flapping their arms out of the windows to publicize their grief. The gunmen of the Morabitoun militia waved them through, and so did the French paratroopers on the line as the coffin bounced around in the back of the ambulance round the earth revetments and over the rubble and glass towards the east, the chanting echoing off ruined walls. A trifle uncomfortable perhaps, but corpses have no problems in crossing the Beirut front line.

Most of the living walked across yesterday. At the end of Corniche Mazraa, there was a burnt-out Lebanese Army tank with a Nasserite flag on top and - three gunmen in red bandannas squatting on the top.

You had to crunch your way over the broken road past the tank, stumble through piles of red earth and there, beside a deserted flyover, stood five French paratroopers of what used to be the multinational force, kitted out in full combat uniform and steel helmets, a tricolour snapping nervously on the radio antenna of the Jeep behind them. They did not respond to our greetings, aware no doubt that we owed them a favour and not the other way round.

Long ago the French decided to turn the French Ambassador's smashed and cavernous residence beside the Museum their contingent headquarters, and so they have now found themselves in the very centre of the most strategic piece of real estate in Lebanon.

While the Americans and British spent much of last week sneaking their soldiers and civilians out of Beirut, the French were yesterday still trying to do something for the Lebanese, although their political motives may not be entirely altruistic. On the 400 yards of roadway that the French have commandeered, there were yesterday two truck-loads of grinning French troops and a



Street game: Two children playing yesterday among the ruins of Beirut.

clutter of majors wearing red berets at ridiculously rakish angles, keeping the front line open. Beyond them, down the road, was the Lebanese Army and the Phalange.

We walked on down towards the eastern earth defences behind which we would find those who had besieged west Beirut for almost a week.

The earthen mounds seemed much higher when we reached them and there was something

sinister about the lack of flags on the top. We walked gingerly through little gaps in the ramparts and peered round.

There were no giants there, no fearsome militias, no sharpened knives: just three very tired and very scruffy cigarette-smoking Lebanese soldiers in creased battle dress lounging on the edge of an abandoned vehicle which had mud and rust all over its tracks.

Their rifles were lying on the

pavement, they were quite uninterested in us, totally absorbed in watching their rations being brought up the street behind them by an elderly corporal with grey hair.

They made no effort to stop us or to interest themselves in the eight-truck Red Cross supply convoy that trundled over the shrapnel and through the barricades to west Beirut. Back in the French buffer zone, we even found Mr Rafik Hariri,

the Saudi negotiator who commutes between the palaces of the Lebanese and Syrian Presidents. He sat in his armoured Mercedes, a huge paw emerging through the window to shake our hand. He talked about optimism and said he wanted more crossings open between east and west Beirut. "The militias don't want to control west Beirut," he commented without much conviction.

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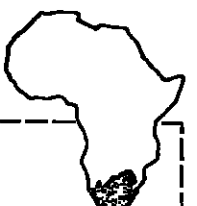
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## Border towns hit in Gulf war

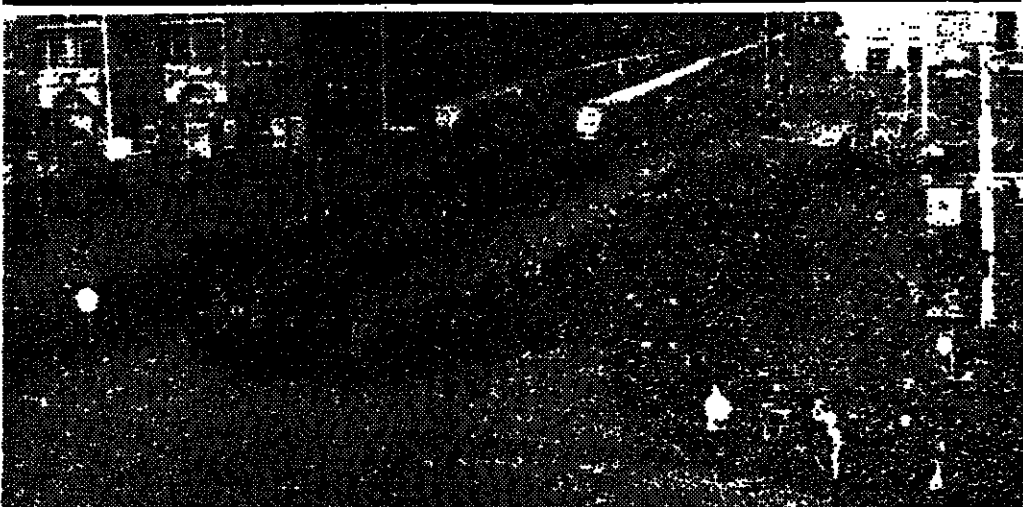
Tehran (AFP) - The Iran-Iraq war escalated sharply as Iran unleashed an artillery attack on three Iraqi border towns yesterday after Iraqi rockets had pounded the Iranian city of Dezful on Saturday.

The towns of Basra, Mandali and Khanaqin came under heavy shelling after Iranian

radio told inhabitants to leave, and Iranian ground forces launched warning flares across the border.

● **BAHRAIN:** Iraq confirmed an Iranian artillery attack against three Iraqi towns yesterday, and said that it would retaliate with "one of the deterrents" in its arsenal (AFP reports).

● **Dam threatened:** Sources acquainted with the Darbandikhan region in Iraqi Kurdistan speculated that the aim of the Iranian attack there might be to breach a huge dam originally built to stop the annual flooding of the Baghdad area which now produces a sizable portion of Iraq's electricity.



Last respects: Muscovites line up in Gorky Street to see the body of President Andropov lying in state in the Hall of Columns.

## Washington plays down summit idea

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

Senior Administration officials yesterday played down speculation that there could be an early summit between President Reagan and the new Soviet leadership, after the 20th last Friday of President Andropov.

Appearing on separate television programmes yesterday, Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the US representative at the United Nations, and Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, the Undersecretary of State, both said the American position on a summit remained unchanged. This was that a summit should not be held for its own sake but would have to be carefully prepared and have a prospect of meaningful results.

The same officials also emphasized that the United States did not expect any significant changes in policy by the Soviet Union.

The speculation that Mr Reagan, with his eye fixed firmly on his reelection campaign, was now thinking in terms of a summit was raised by the conciliatory language he has used toward Moscow since Mr Andropov's death.

## Smooth air of routine in Moscow's mourning

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The mourning in Moscow was low-key, with none of the shock which accompanied the passing of President Brezhnev 15 months ago. Shops and theatres remained open, except in the centre near Red Square, sealed off by phalanxes of troops, police and civilian auxiliaries with red armbands.

Massive security is the traditional response in Russia to government crises, but this time it had a well-rehearsed air, with no real expectation that the people would panic.

"We've been through this before" said a young policeman as he chuckled my pass in an otherwise deserted street near the Kremlin.

"When Brezhnev died it was the end of an era," one middle-aged woman in a sheepskin coat said. "He was part of our lives for a long time. Now I feel simply sad. Andropov was a good strong man who did not have time."

Muscovites seemed to have little to say, except that Mr Andropov had been a modest, principled man untouched by corruption, who had made a start. Even the black-edged flags on public buildings had an understated air, fluttering in the icy breeze but not dominating the scene.

At the Hall of Columns, the

green and white classical building near Red Square where Mr Andropov's body lies in state, an apparently endless queue of factory workers and soldiers shuffled forward patiently through the crystal clear air towards the ornate doorway.

Brought in through the police cordons in special buses, the mourners waited their turn under a clear blue sky as they had done in November, 1982, although this time perhaps without quite the same sense of history.

Inside the hall, originally a noblemen's club which subsequently saw the trial of Bukharin and the deaths of Stalin and Brezhnev, an army band played solemn music. The chandeliers, covered in black cloth, cast a faint glow.

In the dim light, the face of Yuri Andropov, the once powerful KGB chief and then party leader and President, seemed white and waxy, a mask set at the head of a flower-covered bier.

Party and government officials and army officers stood in silent respect, while to one side Mr Igor Andropov, the President's son, sat on with his hands in his lap, staring through his spectacles at the bier.



## We're looking forward to the future.

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## Opera in London and Paris

## Carreras joins a royal line

Andrea Chenier  
Covent Garden

Giordano's *Andrea Chenier* is back at Covent Garden after 53 years, two postponements and in a borrowed production. To vilify Giordano has long been the fashion and the cynics will doubtless be saying that half a century is just about the right interval between *Cheniers*. More reasonable men will question whether this particular production, from Cologne, was the right one to borrow. London's two major opera houses have not been too successful in that respect this season. But the crucial requirement for *Chenier* is the tenor and Covent Garden have answered that in the shape of José Carreras, who was responsible for much of the warm applause which greeted Friday's first night.

Glignani was acting in his own best interests when he used to inform management that the role of Carreras was his preferred role for making a house debut. It was in Giordano's opera that he was first heard at the Royal Opera House. Although the number of performances of *Chenier* at Covent Garden had not even reached double figures before this weekend, the other tenors taking the title role have included Caruso, Zénatelli and Lauri-Volpi, a fair indication of the rewards the opera holds.

José Carreras now adds a fifth to that royal quartet and he does so with the greatest distinction. *Chenier* is a hero as well as a poet - Illica's libretto for Giordano is a well-worked piece of fiction where a number of figures from the French Revolution are woven together in a plot that is not exactly based on the truth. So Carreras provides heroic tones. And that will come as no surprise to those who have followed his career closely over the past year.

*Chenier's* solos, one in each of the four acts, are much outbursts as arias. In the *improviso*, where *Chenier* attacks the aristocracy waiting to be entertained at the Chateau de Coigny, Carreras set alight the opening act, which at times only smoulders, with a ringing timbre and notes hit plumb centre. Carreras is the most honest of tenors: he fudges nothing. And, as his recent *Rodolfo* proved, the lyricism remains for *Chenier's* final poem, "Come un bel dì".

which, like the *improviso*, Illica based on the verses of the real *Chenier*.

It is of course for Act IV above all that true *Chenier* fanatics are in the house. "LAST ACT ROUSED FA-BOOM, BOOM, BOOM", cabled Sorzogno, the music publisher with whom Giordano had many a row after the first performance at the Met. Boom, boom indeed. Carreras and his Maddalena, Rosalind Plowright, unleashed their voices as the lovers march off to the guillotine to be united in death. Miss Plowright is often at her happiest in such blood-stirring fortissimo passages. And so it was earlier she had shown to good advantage in "La mamma morta", as Maddalena offers her body to the man in power to save her lover, as Tosca was to do just four years after the *Chenier* premiere. Here the full range of the Plowright soprano, and especially its darker shadings, came through. In the opening act and the words were indistinct. Bernd Weikl as Gerard, the man who gets that offer, gives a performance of strength and integrity as the opera's only two-dimensional figure, a revolutionary who ends up admiring his enemies.

*Chenier* is full of cameo roles, too far probably for anyone seeing the opera for the first time. Many were cast with imagination, including Anny Schlemm (a house debut) as the blind Maddalena and another veteran singer, Patricia Johnson, as the Contessa di Coigny. Outstanding among the home team were Jonathan Summers as *Chenier's* companion Rouchaud and Richard Van Allan as Mathieu, who gets all the revolutionary numbers.

Hopes were high for Michael Hampe's production after his award-winning *Marmion* segret seen at Sadler's Wells and the immaculate *Così* at Salzburg. It disappointed. One or two touches apart - the silhouettes of the revolution at the end of Act I, a wheelbarrow of lanterns as the June evening fades in Act II - it was unimaginative and visually drab. William Orlando's sets, after a "design concept by Elio Frigerio", looked grubby and dreary as well as taking an awful long time to change. EMI have just reissued the opera on two records (SLS 1436533) so Covent Garden should manage to get through it in under three hours. Gerard must have



Revolutionary and poet: Bernd Weikl (left) and José Carreras bringing strength and integrity to *Andrea Chenier* (photograph by Zoë Dominiak); and the delicacy of Inga Nielsen in *La Chatte anglaise*

wondered just what he was singing at the start when he attacks the guided cage of the Coignys ("T'odio, casa dorata").

Luckily there was gold in the orchestra from Richard Armstrong, who threw himself into this melodious, energetic and unobtrusive score with the vigour he uses for early Verdi with the WNO.

John Higgins

La Chatte anglaise  
Opéra Comique

After *We Come to the River* we come to the cat. This second operatic venture from Hans Werner Henze and Edward Bond, *The English Cat*, is a very different animal from the "actions for music" they flung at Covent Garden audiences in 1976. The fury has abated. The score is worked with the finesse of the chamber music Henze has been writing in the interim, although it has its own cat colours: the stretching of feline limbs in sizzling glissandos, sudden jumps and quick heartbeats in the percussion, the electric bristling of fur in the sharpened harmonies stroked through the chorus. Meanwhile the old message of class struggle is made almost coyly; this is much more a polite than a political opera.

Rather oddly, though, Henze and Bond continue to get

worked up about the inequities of a society few would care to support, that of the upper and upper middle classes of the European empires as they tottered towards the Great War. Yet that would be more absurd if the opera actually believed in itself as satire, which it does not. Instead the tone of gentle luxury, and the orchestra, prominently featuring sumptuous violins and characterful low woodwind with a rich, athletic current of plucked strings and much percussion, is inclined more to cherish than to mock these high-born animals as they behave with sublime indifference to anything but self-interest. Not for the first time, Henze is too much in love with his isolated world to attack it.

Bond's part in the enterprise would seem to be less than in the earlier opera. The idea was in the first place Henze's, coming to him after he had seen a stage adaptation of Balzac's *allégorie Peines de coeur d'une chatte anglaise*. He then invited Bond to make him a libretto on the subject, and Bond responded with what reads more like a ballad opera than the infinitely fussy chamber piece it became. It is a low-life view of the gentry as cats, with lots of songs in brisk, crude metres and quick-moving dialogue. To judge from what has been published of the correspondence between composer and librettist, however, their collaboration was smooth and efficient.

What the letters also reveal, fascinatingly, is how much visual as well as verbal stimulus Henze needed from Bond. He asks the playwright to give him full stage directions and even pen portraits of the characters, which doubtless helped in his creation for each of a specific texture. Minette, the English cat of the title, is given an admiring portrait of a really matter-of-fact, almost a little cold, creature out with jewels from harp and electric guitar, while her lover Tom has a rougher, tumbling ensemble of percussion and claret, the latter paying homage to Stravinsky's cat music. Perhaps Rossini and Ravel are there too, although happily few. It is, after all, an opera about people, not cats.

The story is simple. Minette is imported from the country as a wife for Lord Puff, a rich town cat and president of the Royal Society for the Protection of Rats, which exists hypocritically to rob rodents of freedom and dignity while pretending to honour them. Vaguely dissatisfied with idleness and Lord Puff's less-than-complete attention to his marital duties, Minette is charmed by the alleycat Tom. Lord Puff's nephew Arnold seizes on this unfaithfulness as an opportunity to press for a divorce and so end the admittedly remote possibility of an alternative heir, but in the courtroom Tom is recognized as the long-lost son of the last Lord Fairport and inheritor of a vast fortune.

Minette is sent for drowning, and so Tom casually turns his attention to her sister, but the new liaison is short-lived, for Tom himself is soon killed off by the RSPR for his money. It is at this point that the music suddenly becomes strangely savage, as if something was happening that really mattered. Otherwise this is Henze's most poised music for the theatre since *Elgyr for Young Lovers*, with its naughtiness of waltz, tango and other dance numbers subsumed in elegance and with beautiful song after beautiful song set in recitative where a chamber organ serves as fulsome continuo.

Like the original production in Schwetzingen last June, this new Paris staging is conducted by Dennis Russell Davies, a keen exponent of Henze's energy and loveliness. The visual aspect is dominated less by Julian Hope's production than by the masks of Kuno Schmelz, which transpose animal features on to the cast without seeming to impede their singing at all. Certainly there are cascades of delicate high soprano tone from Inga Nielsen as Minette and a warm vein of mezzo seriousness and sensitivity from Bernadette Antoine as her sister, Bruce Brewer is properly enfeebled as Lord Puff, and Philippe Dumy is a lively baritone for Tom. There are further performances tonight and on February 16, 18, 21 and 23.

Paul Griffiths

## Theatre

Anna's Room  
Birmingham Rep  
Studio

I hope the brief West End run of Ellen Dryden's *Harvey* will not deter southern theatres (fringe especially) from looking at a new piece. In its relatively uneventful two hours, starting with two girls arriving to share a pretty Edwardian flat in Ealing, a host of interesting subjects surfaces for discussion: with Miss Dryden's particular perceptiveness and quiet humour, although I would be hard put to say what they all add up to.

First, it is a persuasive, appealing study of a friendship: thoughtful teacher Anna (Petra Markham) with her complement, the pragmatic doctor Pru (Tessa Peake Jones). Devoted, old-fashioned and sadly aware of it, Anna's boyfriend (Ian Redford) shows the worst male incomprehension: feeling walked-out on, feeling threatened, suspecting a lesbian affair.

Independence achieved, Anna is unsure what she wants. Altruism is in her blood; she worries about dosing junkies, while Pru asks what can you do?

The dilemma of involvement recurs with her class's essay topic - Florence Nightingale - and with Pru's young widowed mother: movingly played by

Sylvia Kay, but is she a soul in need or an emotional vampire? Anna is torn between that and her new freedom, privacy and sense of self.

The author then confronts that privacy with an extreme threat: invasion by Pru's spongy, spoilt brother, barely credible though played by Tristram Wymark with splendidly odious confidence. Sleeping-bag and sneers at the ready, he beds or half-berns his hostesses while extolling his "boyish charm" and ridiculing the unselfish, like the mugger Pru encounters (whom we are spared, however), he shows how vulnerable decent people are to *force majeure*.

Intercut with these realistic scenes are visions of another Anna (the sweetly earnest Mary Rutherford) as, for example, a suitably medieval lady driven to a nunnery and a Victorian spinster resenting dependence and bitterly refusing an admirer (played, significantly, by Mr Redford with a swiftly added cravat). Modern Anna watches in horrified self-recognition until, when Pru plans to leave, Miss Rutherford enters in identical costume to utter the private sentiments that go unspoken. Peter Farago's sensitive production moves naturally between the changing worlds, assisted by Geoffrey Scott's spot-on set.

Anthony Masters

## Concert

BBCSO/Pritchard  
Festival Hall/Radio 3

It is astonishing how violently Stravinsky's big neo-classical vocal works were revived when they were heard in London during the Thirties. *The Times* wrote of *Oedipus Rex* with the sentence "The work is monumental, monumental non-sense". *The Manchester Guardian* wrote of "the ostentatious but quite unconvincing religiosity" of the *Symphony of Psalms*. Nowadays that *Symphony* seems as beautiful a piece as Stravinsky wrote, especially when it is done with the suppleness and quiet fervour which Sir John Pritchard brought to it on Friday night.

It is easy to make this superficially expressionless music sound cold and spiky, but Pritchard, by drawing it along gently with smooth but firm rhythms, gives it a restrained intensity. He was helped by the warm tone of the BBC Symphony Chorus (trained on this occasion by Christopher Robinson) and by the crisp efficiency of the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Celia Brayfield

Nicholas Kenyon

Television  
Barlines

To make a Martini fit to inspire a great master of the cinema, first chill the glass, the cocktail-shaker and the gin. Only English gin should be used. Fill the shaker with ice, pour in a few drops of Noilly Prat and angostura bitters, and pour them straight out again. Then add a good measure of gin, shake, and strain the tainted spirit into a glass.

The Life and Times of Don Luis Buñuel (BBC2) gave this recipe with the fact that the great director spent much time in bars with his favourite cocktails, meditating and writing scripts.

What a hideous task fell to Anthony Wall, the director of this requisite BBC biography. It is hard to explain an artist who is devoted to meaningless images, and doubly hard when the artist has resisted veneration in his lifetime, so successfully that no worthwhile film interview with him exists.

We had fine, inescapable *l'uff* the Last Supper from *l'uff*, the hand with anis from *Un Chien Andalou*, loving reminiscences from Fernando Rey and Jean-Claude Carrière. We had some laughs, too, as when an early partner in surrealism observed that it was not Don Luis who was charming the crew would do anything for him.

All this just blackened the mystery of Buñuel. Then the revelation came. A home movie made by a friend showed the private Buñuel, entertaining in a bar with a half-serious interview. What a gem it was. There was the great director, cheerfully defenceless among his intimates, discussing love, death and the whole damn thing. It seemed voyeuristic to watch him.

Paradox also afflicted *The Weather in the Streets* (BBC2). This was a lavish film based on interview. What a gem it was. There was the great director, cheerfully defenceless among his intimates, discussing love, death and the whole damn thing. It seemed voyeuristic to watch him.

Here the difficulty was in finding the people under the perfect 1920s costumes, and the theme under the gleaming vintage cars and burnished Bakelite radios. Even the atmosphere of luminous sensuality whipped up by the director, Gavin Millar, seemed to have been borrowed from a commercial for a new fibre-full breakfast cereal. It was all too beautiful.

John Percival

Dance  
La Bayadère/  
Swan Lake  
Covent Garden

*La Bayadère* sprang full-grown into the Royal Ballet's repertory in 1963 and the only problem about maintaining it is that those of us who saw it then, or in the Kirov Ballet's production in 1961, were probably spoiled for life with expectations of excellence difficult to maintain. Both companies then had a corps de ballet at a peak of its powers, and exceptional principals and soloists.

Also in 1963, the Royal Ballet put on a new reading of *Swan Lake*, most of it mercifully long since scrapped. In one version or another, *Swan Lake* has been in the company's programmes almost 50 years, repeatedly tinkered with, occasionally completely coming together. Frustratingly, they have all the right raw material but fail to focus it. What can any man make of Siegfried, for instance, when what should be a high moment of drama, his refusal to marry, is produced as broad farce?

Jay Jolley looked completely nonplussed by that on Saturday night, when he partnered

Elisabeth Platel in her first guest appearance in this ballet. (Charles Jude, the colleague from Paris who was to have danced with her, was injured.) She began a sensible girl, simply concentrating on the dancing and lets the ballet speak for itself.

As Odette, her movements are beautifully stylized, full of detail that has dropped but of the Covent Garden production (the tiny move of the head before her Act II solo, for instance). She plays it coolly, without laying on heavy emotion, but with a touching concern for Siegfried in their tragic final moments of life together.

Her Odile, the character's obverse image in Act III, seduces Siegfried more by challenging his sense of adventure than by voluptuousness. At the beginning of her solo, one small phrase went slightly awry; I liked the way in which, refusing to let that show her, she continued building the dance to a climax with both fast and slow pirouettes, very smooth, and a series of fouettés absolutely *sur place*, strong, sure, glittering.

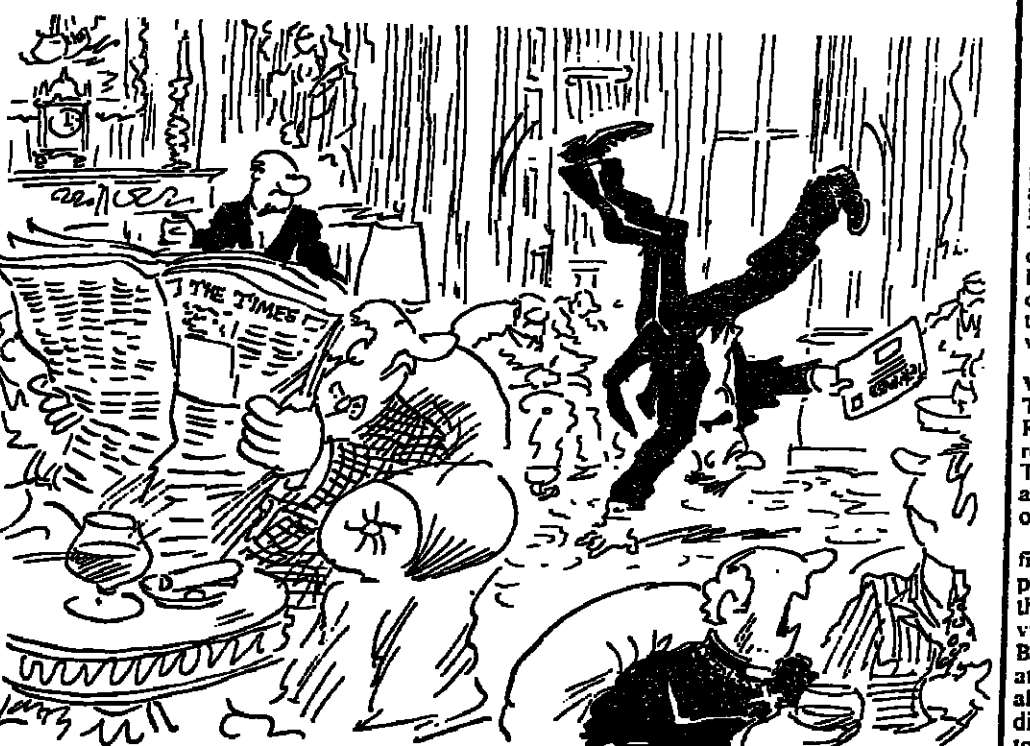
The Covent Garden corps de ballet is good but something this side of perfection in *Swan Lake* this season; better in *La Bayadère*, perhaps because it is harder, more challenging, I watched one performance last week from the amphitheatre, a

view that allows no hiding of errors, and was touched by the skill and cohesion of their work. That was the night that Nureyev came from Paris to replace the injured Jude as Platel's partner: she much more confident and glowing in the role than at her first attempt, he obviously proud to present her at Covent Garden audiences in 1976. The fury has abated. The score is worked with the finesse of the chamber music Henze has been writing in the interim, although it has its own cat colours: the stretching of feline limbs in sizzling glissandos, sudden jumps and quick heartbeats in the percussion, the electric bristling of fur in the sharpened harmonies stroked through the chorus. Meanwhile the old message of class struggle is made almost coyly; this is much more a polite than a political opera.

But the trio of soloists that night was decidedly less thrilling: they range from dull competence to flashy approximation. Some nights, when Deirdre Eyden, Ravenna Tucker and Fiona Chadwick take those parts, they are superbly done. On Thursday, the applause recognized how far they were outdancing the miscast Marguerite Porter in the ballerina part.

Her bold but empty rhetorical flourishes were no recompense for weak pirouettes and skimpy extensions. Stephen Jefferies, dancing his first London performance as Solor, was uneven, concentrating on what he can achieve with strongest effect. But his sense of dance as a form of drama rather than virtuosity should see him work more securely into the role.

John Percival



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## PUBLISHING

## Taking a dim view

Jan Morris, Claire Rayner and Sir Peter Parker made public in mid-January on *Bookmark* (BBC2) their critical opinions of *The Paper Men*, William Golding's first novel to be published since he received the Nobel Prize for Literature. So what? you may say.

The novel was published by Faber and Faber last week. If a review of the book had appeared in a newspaper weeks, even a day or two, before publication there would have been vigorous complaints from the literary editors of other newspapers as well as to the novel's publisher. Books are published on specific dates, and there is general agreement - it is in the interests of authors, publishers and booksellers as well as the press, which likes to treat new books as "news" - that those deadlines should, for purposes of review, be rigorously adhered to.

Why should the rules be different for television? Those informative radio programmes that discuss and review books cannot be overjoyed at the Golding gun being jumped in the air. Nor can booksellers as, no doubt, viewers in their thousands will have been frustrated at being unable to acquire *The Paper Men* from bookshop or library the day after the programme. It is not as if we have a Nobel laureate publishing a new novel every month, or that many books receive this kind of television exposure. How ironic it should happen to an important work of fiction that no one other than Jan Morris, Claire Rayner, Sir Peter Parker and other reviewers was at the time allowed to read.

It never fails to surprise what publishers will do - and who can blame them? - to make a few bob. Golding was publishing in June, at a mere £75.00, *Tunncliffe's Birds: Measured Drawings in Colour* by C. E. Tunncliffe. The book, illustrated in colour, has 160 plates and presents 80 of the great bird artist's measured drawings.

If you are a Tunncliffe addict and/or bird fanatic you might like to start saving now, especially if you fancy one of the limited edition of 80 copies, bound in maroon half-leather, hand-tooled, with gilt finish and marbled endpapers (gilt, drop, droll) a facsimile of a signed letter from the artist. Each copy is numbered by hand (truly). Price: £275.00.

Every time a page of a book in copyright - that is, generally speaking, published within the last 50 years or within 50 years of the death of the author, whichever is the later date - is

photocopied without payment being made to the copyright holder, both author and publisher lose money.

Some years ago the Authors' Licensing and Copyright Society (ALCS) was set up to try to do something positive about this, as was the Publishers' Licensing Society (PLS). The two societies have together formed a new organization, the Copyright Licensing Agency, to issue licences to users and to collect and distribute fees.

As Tim Rix, president of the Publishers' Association and chief executive of Longman, says, "The terms of the licences are designed to create an administratively workable system, to bring photocopying under control, produce reasonable returns for authors and publishers, and generally to establish a fair balance between the needs of users and the rights of copyright-holders". Licences - who should include schools, libraries, universities, colleges and other institutions - will be required to pay a modest fee based on the number of copies made within a specified period, and for educational institutions the maximum number of copies licensed will be equivalent to the number of pupils in a class. The money will be divided equally between author or copyright-holder and publisher.

Institutions have brought this upon themselves in the sense that, however expensive books may seem to them, they are bound to be more expensive if fewer copies of individual titles are printed. Thus it is not wholly ridiculous to envisage a situation where only one copy of a textbook and everybody requiring to use it photocopies the original. Institutions are sometimes not too concerned if they spend more money photocopying a book than buying a copy of it. The more efficient the photocopying, the more readily publishers should be able to keep down the prices of new books.

I suggested a few weeks ago that Hutchinson were errant in paying their authors on time. They have taken an exception to this. Whilst acknowledging that, in the past not all advances may have been made on time they are keen to point out that great care is now taken to ensure that both royalty payments and advances are paid when due. No doubt building young authors will be delighted to hear this. Many publishers are "careful" in paying their authors but I did not intend to imply that Hutchinson were especially culpable in this regard.

E. J. Craddock

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**BOOKING OPENS TODAY**

**Patience**  
Gilbert & Sullivan  
"captivating... very funny" Daily Telegraph  
Mar 1, 10, 16, 23 at 7.30  
(Perfs end approx 10.00)  
Cast inc. Patricia O'Neill, Derek Hammond-Stroud, Christopher Booth-Jones, Anne Collins, Eric Shilling  
Conductor Victor Morris  
Producer John Cox

**The Barber of Seville**  
Rossini  
"puts a new sharp edge on the Barber's razors" Guardian  
Mar 2, 7, 9, 13, 15, 22 at 7.30  
(Perfs end approx 10.30)  
Cast inc. Donald Maxwell, Ann Murray (exc Mar 7/9), Anne-Marie Owens (Mar 7/9), Keith Lewis, Michael Ripston, Richard James, Hilary Westman  
Conductor James Judd  
Producer Patrick Libby

**Gloriana**  
Britten  
"an operatic feast not to be missed" Sunday Times  
Mar 12, 14, 17, 21, 24, 27  
(Perfs end approx 10.20)  
Revised production by the UK and Irish Revivals of English National Opera  
Cast inc. Sarah Walker, Anthony Rolfe Johnson, Jean Rigby, Neil Hawlett, Elizabeth Vaughan, Alan Oplie, Richard Van Allan, Malcolm Donnelly, Malcolm Bailey  
Conductor Mark Elder  
Producer Colin Graham

**War and Peace**  
Prokofiev  
"an epic triumph" Daily Mail  
Mar 31, Apr 4, 6, 14, 18 at 6.30  
(Perfs end approx 10.45; inc. 45 mins supper interval)  
Cast inc. Eileen Hannon, Russell Symphons, Kenneth Woolton, Adrian Martin, Norman Bailey, Malcolm Donnelly  
Conductor James Lockhart  
Producer Colin Graham

**Der Rosenkavalier**  
Richard Strauss  
"sparkling, stylish production" Guardian  
Apr 7, 11, 13, 21, 27, May 2, 10, 17 at 7.00, Apr 17 at 7.30  
(Perfs end approx 10.50; Apr 17 approx 11.20)  
Cast inc. Josephine Barstow, Dennis Wicks, Sally Burgess, Eric Shilling, Anne Dawson  
Conductor Friedrich Flörsch  
Producer John Capley

**The Sicilian Vespers**  
Verdi  
Apr 19, 25, 28, May 1, 4, 9, 12, 15, 19 at 7.00  
(Perfs end approx 10.45)  
Cast inc. Rosalind Plowright, Kenneth Collins, Neil Hawlett, Richard Van Allan  
Conductors Mark Elder (exc May 15/19) Noel Davies (May 15/19)  
Director John Dexter  
Producer Fabrizio Melano

**The Magic Flute**  
Mozart  
"handsome spectacle... brims with magic" Times  
May 3\*, 5, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18 at 7.30  
(Perfs end approx 10.30)  
Cast inc. Rowland Liddell, Valerie Masterson, Alan Oplie, Angela Denning, Marilyn Hill Smith, Sean Rea  
Conductor Wyn Davies  
Producer Anthony Bosch

\*Gala performance - please book office for details  
English National Opera is funded by the Arts Council of Great Britain and the CLE  
Seats £3.50 to £15.70  
Some seats available each day



# 100 YEARS OF INNOVATION

Today, 13th February, Nationwide Building Society celebrates its 100th birthday.

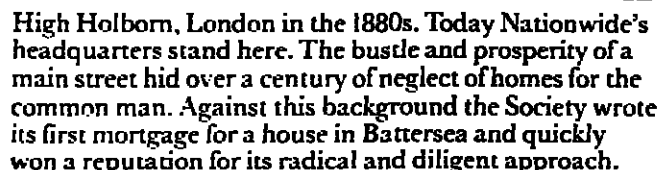
When we first opened our doors in 1884 in London the housing needs of the nation were

dire and pressing – a century of industrialisation had seen to that.

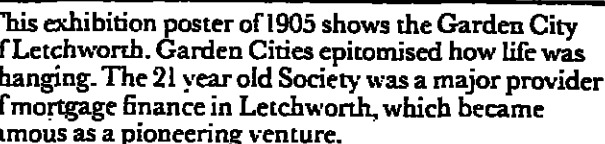
Today, the needs are different but pressing still. Here are a few leaves from our

history, which is marked with innovation. It shows how Nationwide

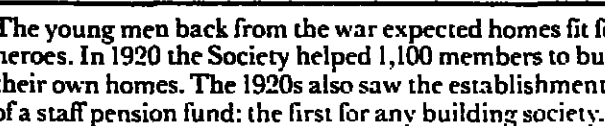
has grown, prospered and served the community.



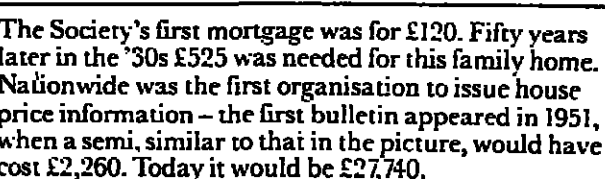
High Holborn, London in the 1880s. Today Nationwide's headquarters stand here. The bustle and prosperity of a main street hid over a century of neglect of homes for the common man. Against this background the Society wrote its first mortgage for a house in Battersea and quickly won a reputation for its radical and diligent approach.



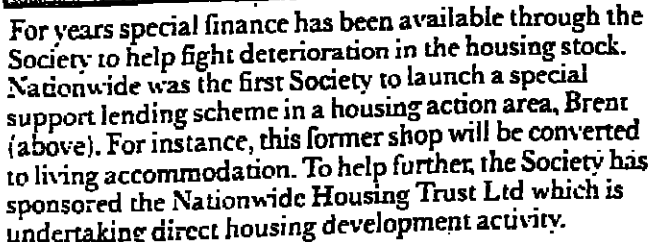
This exhibition poster of 1905 shows the Garden City of Letchworth. Garden Cities epitomised how life was changing. The 21 year old Society was a major provider of mortgage finance in Letchworth, which became famous as a pioneering venture.



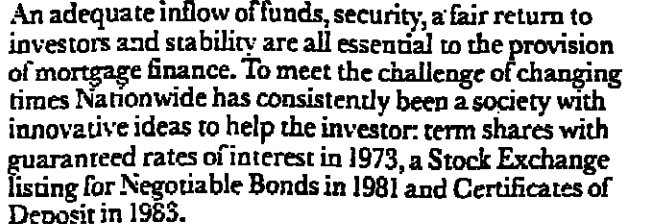
The young men back from the war expected homes fit for heroes. In 1920 the Society helped 1,100 members to buy their own homes. The 1920s also saw the establishment of a staff pension fund: the first for any building society.



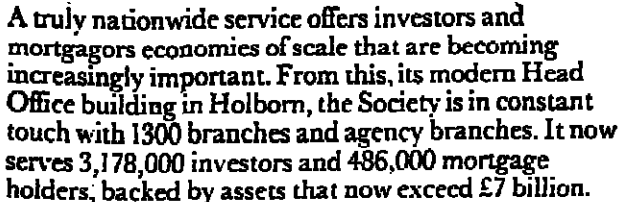
The Society's first mortgage was for £120. Fifty years later in the '30s £525 was needed for this family home. Nationwide was the first organisation to issue house price information – the first bulletin appeared in 1951, when a semi, similar to that in the picture, would have cost £2,260. Today it would be £27,740.



For years special finance has been available through the Society to help fight deterioration in the housing stock. Nationwide was the first Society to launch a special support lending scheme in a housing action area, Brent (above). For instance, this former shop will be converted to living accommodation. To help further, the Society has sponsored the Nationwide Housing Trust Ltd which is undertaking direct housing development activity.



An adequate inflow of funds, security, a fair return to investors and stability are all essential to the provision of mortgage finance. To meet the challenge of changing times Nationwide has consistently been a society with innovative ideas to help the investor: term shares with guaranteed rates of interest in 1973, a Stock Exchange listing for Negotiable Bonds in 1981 and Certificates of Deposit in 1983.



A truly nationwide service offers investors and mortgagors economies of scale that are becoming increasingly important. From this, its modern Head Office building in Holborn, the Society is in constant touch with 1300 branches and agency branches. It now serves 3,178,000 investors and 496,000 mortgage holders, backed by assets that now exceed £7 billion.

**Nationwide Building Society,  
New Oxford House, High Holborn,  
London WC1V 6PW.**



## SPECTRUM

moreover...  
Miles Kington

## Colouring in the words

Here is an entire news item which appeared in *The Times* on February 3. British Telecom yesterday opened the world's first international digital colour video conference service with Canada.

Apart from thinking to yourself as you read it that it's nice to see adjectives outnumber any other part of speech, you probably didn't think anything at all. You probably let it slide right past you. At most, you may have felt an urge to pat British Telecom on its head, like a parent being shown a child's first novel, and murmur: "That's nice, dear."

This is because you didn't understand a word of it. A large part of the English language today is comprehensible only to children who read more than two computer magazines a month, or to adults who live on a line between London and Bristol (the so-called silicon gap). Technology is moving so fast that many sentences actually become obsolete as you utter them. As an educational service to readers, I propose today to go through that sentence above, word by word, explaining each one. This is your last chance. Please pay attention.

British Telecom: A new name given to any part of the Post Office that makes a profit. It is short for British Telecommunications, a name that has never actually been used, but this is all part of the process of trade name abbreviation, a scientific theory which states that if your name becomes shorter, it sounds more efficient. So the General Post Office becomes the Post Office, British Railways becomes British Rail and Anthony Wedgwood Benn becomes Tony Benn.

Sooner or later the name cannot get any shorter, and then it suddenly is changed for a longer one, like British Telecom, which will go through the same cycle all over again. We can soon expect Britrail, Telecom, even Tonbenn.

Yesterday: A word used by journalists meaning "today".

Opened: A word used by PR men meaning "finally opened". Alternatively, it can mean something that was opened months ago but is only now working well enough to show the media.

The world's first: Just as everyone has unique fingerprints, so anything can be the world's first if you describe it carefully enough. The implication behind the news item in question is that there probably had been an international digital video conference service with Canada for years, but it was in black and white.

International: Referring to any project which is too expensive for one country alone, for example almost any BBC TV programme.

Digital: Something with fingers. Something with toes. Something without hands (i.e., a watch). The opposite of analogue. Descriptive of a poison derived from foxgloves.

Colour: A device whereby natural soothing black and white can be converted into migraine-bright red and green. A kind of television transmission whereby all Americans look stunned, all Britons look over-made up, all products in commercials look made of plasticine and everything else seems to have wet paint on it. An excuse for Frank Muir to wear bow ties.

Video: A recent, not very good American film, which preaches that almost all injustices can be put right by going out and shooting the person responsible. A method of playing back something best forgotten. A technique for interviewing participants in a sporting event before they have thought of something to say.

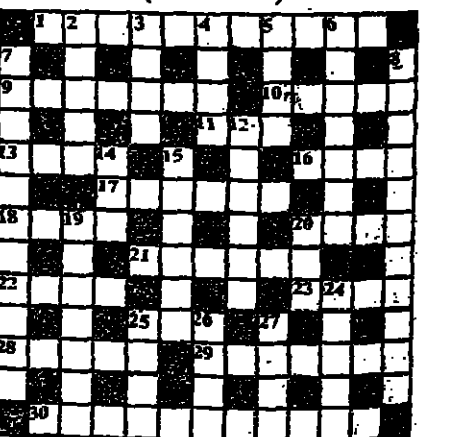
Conference: A gathering at which businessmen get very drunk. A way of meeting people you have been trying to avoid for years. A chance for TV personalities to earn thousands of pounds by getting up and doing bits of their TV shows.

Service: Something you didn't know was good for you until it was described as a service. A vehicle, as in "The 1914 service to Paris". Something withdrawn by British Rail. An inexplicable 15 per cent addition to a bill.

To Canada: Canada is a country invented so that the Americans could have someone to feel superior to without going all the way to Europe.

So, the whole news item means... well, entries on a postcard to this address.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (NO 266)



- ACROSS
- East, West border (4, 7)
  - Surround (7)
  - Series of sketches (3)
  - Crafty (3)
  - Courtesy's husk (3)
  - Coffin stand (4)
  - Sufficient (6)
  - Jo (4)
  - Pod seed (4)
  - Long strip (6)
  - Napoleon's island (4)
  - Smear carelessly (4)
  - Serious assault (1, 1)
  - Run into (5)
  - Formal speech (7)
  - Triple jump (3, 4, 4)
- DOWN
- Big stream (5)
  - Informant (4)
  - Large vase (4)
  - Conservative (4)
  - Goods bill (7)
  - Willpower (11)
  - Zig zag suit (7, 4)
  - Pope's emissary (6)
  - Meadow (3)
  - House spider (4)
  - Smoking plant (7)
  - Flower plot (5)
  - Maxim (5)
  - French grey (4)
  - Five wheeled (4)
  - Micca pilgrimage (4)

Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

It is almost a year since Arthur and Cynthia Koestler committed suicide at their London home. Cynthia became Arthur's secretary

in 1949, his wife in 1965 and in their last years together wrote an "autobiography by two hands." It begins after a young girl from South Africa applies for a job with an unnamed author in Paris

# The first stirrings in summer

## HER STORY

About three weeks passed before I had a reply to my application. It was a letter asking me to come to an address in the 17<sup>ème</sup> arrondissement for an interview and was signed "Daphne Woodward". For some reason which I cannot remember I arrived there half an hour late, much to my mortification. Mrs Woodward told me that the name of the author was Arthur Koestler, that she was his secretary, but was going back to England. To test my shorthand she dictated a passage from *Darkness at Noon*, which I typed out. It was all right, except that I got one word wrong: I wrote "effix" for "ethics". She then said that Mr Koestler was going to interview some of the applicants at the Hôtel Montalembert in a few days' time. I was to be there at 5 pm.

The most suitable clothes to wear for the interview would be clerical grey, so I put on my grey coat and skirt, a paler grey pullover and a grey beret. I was determined to get the job. I walked to the Hôtel Montalembert. In an effort to make up for having been half an hour late for the first interview I was now half an hour early.

He seemed doubtful whether I would be right for the job

I sat down at the table with Mr Koestler, and saw a tired-looking man with red rings under his eyes. He did not say any polite, reassuring words. He explained that Mrs Woodward was going to be away for the summer and he needed somebody to take her place. It would be a temporary job. The summer seemed an interminably long time, so I was quite content with this arrangement. His manner was unnervingly direct. All conventionalities were brushed aside; he only said what he meant.

"Do you think you'll be able to do the job?" he asked. "You don't seem to have much self-confidence." I silently agreed with him. I blushed easily, an annoying trait that had afflicted me from the age of seventeen. He asked me if I would like a drink, but I said no. He urged me again, but I was adamant, so he ordered one for himself. He looked displeased. I had done the wrong thing, I could see, but it was too late to change my mind. I always refused hospitality when I was feeling shy. He seemed doubtful whether I would be the right person for the job and decided to try me out for a day. He was driving back to his house

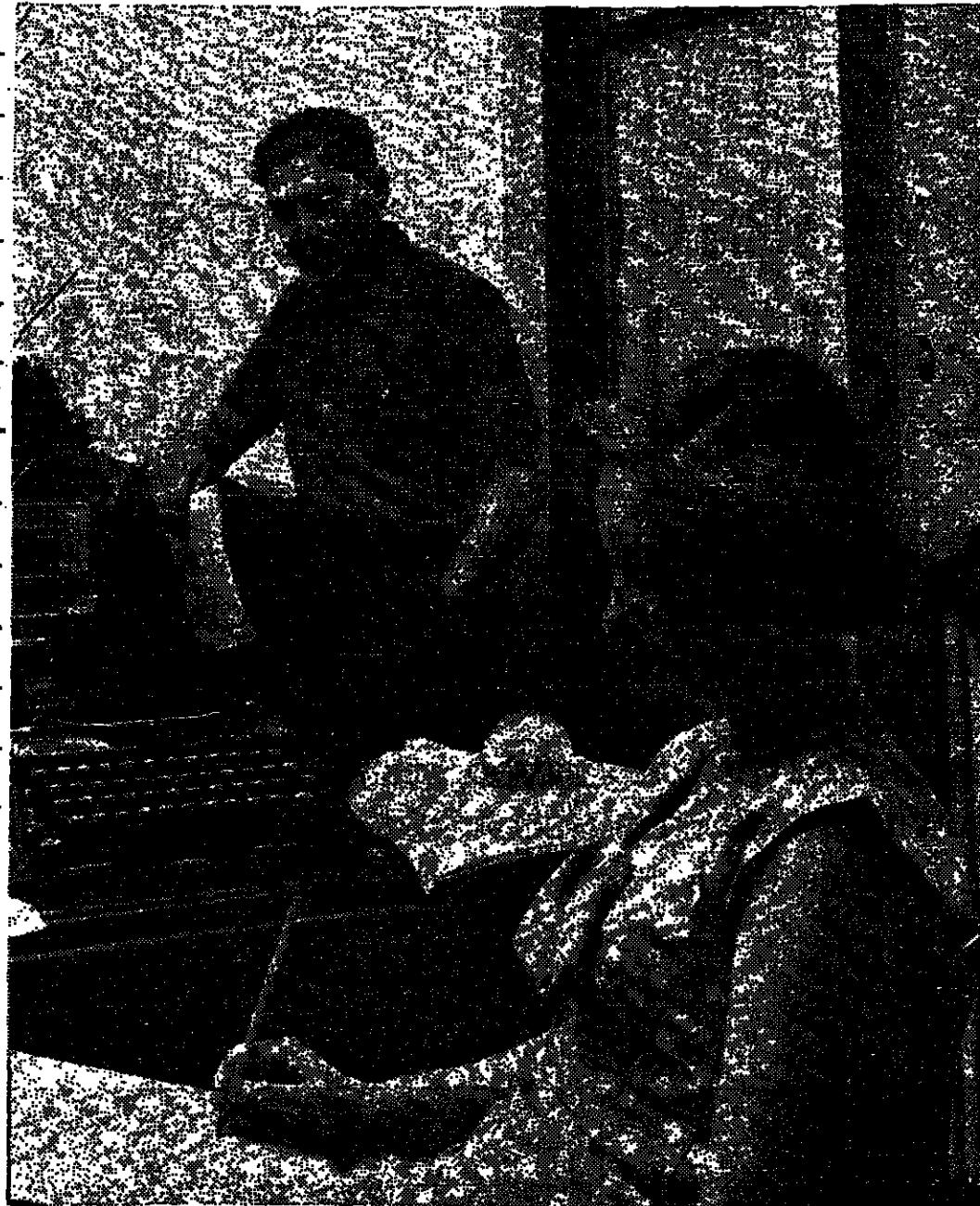
at Fontaine-le-Port, near Fontainebleau, the following morning. I was to meet him at the flat of friends and we would drive there together. He would give me some letters to type and decide if I would do.

In the morning, clutching my handkerchief and benzidine inhaler to keep the hayfever at bay, I went to the flat near the Opéra. We started at once, but before leaving Paris, Mr Koestler had some shopping to do in the Galeries Lafayette, which was nearby. He strode through the shop at great speed, heading for the garden furniture department upstairs, where he asked for two rubber lilies in dark blue. These were produced and he bought them. We charged out of the shop in a matter of minutes and headed for the car.

The sun was shining and the countryside looked like those idyllic paintings I had seen in the Jeu de Paume. I could not think of a single word to say and he remained silent. He drove very fast along those straight, empty French roads, lined with trees sometimes forming a green tunnel. At last I said "This car goes well," and he replied tersely, "It's got good brakes." I wondered vaguely, as one sometimes does, what would be like in bed; but such a thought seemed beyond any stretch of the imagination.

Before we arrived he told me that he had unexpected guests for lunch - a former girlfriend, Daphne, and her husband. His house, Verte Rive, was set back a little from a narrow road. Trees shaded the gravel drive. As we walked round the front, I wondered if he had any children. I knew that his wife was away at the time, in England. To my relief, there was no sound of childish voices, only the welcoming bark of his magnificent boxer dog, Sabby, in his outside kennel. The garden sloped down from the house to a landing stage on the Seine. The river looked wide and peaceful. On the opposite bank the forest stretched endlessly as far as one could see.

Soon the guests came. Daphne had dark eyes with a slightly melancholy expression. Her manner was matter of fact, a little brusque, and she did not hesitate to speak her mind. She was a sculptress. Her husband, Henri Henrion, was an industrial designer. The food was brought in by a grumpy old woman dressed in black called Madame Grandin. We had black pudding, followed by a black stew and a salad of greasy, dark green lettuce leaves. The guests raved about the food, particularly the salad, and Madame Grandin was pronounced a treasure.



Arthur and Cynthia Koestler at work. His study overlooked the Seine.

After lunch, we climbed into a large rowing boat and Mr Koestler rowed us across the river to the Forest of Fontainebleau, on the other side. We walked through the trees until a clearing was found, spread out rugs and sat down in the shade. Nobody said very much. After a few minutes, Mr Koestler fell asleep. He lay on his back, his eyes tightly closed, breathing quietly. I did not feel sleepy at all and neither did the Henrions. They asked me questions about myself, where I came from and where I was living in Paris. As quickly as he fell asleep, Mr Koestler was awake again. We returned to the house and the guests departed for Paris.

## HIS STORY



Their first day's work: on the river near Fontainebleau in 1949.

The first impression I gained of the young applicant for the job of part-time secretary during that interview in the lobby of the Hôtel Montalembert was one of extreme shyness. In her written application she had given her age as twenty-two, but she looked and behaved rather as if she was eighteen. More important, from my professional point of view, was a quality in her of unobtrusiveness, almost of self-effacement, which promised well for putting me into the relaxed state of mind I have always needed for dictating letters or editing versions of rough manuscript drafts. To achieve that relaxed state, I must have a certain rapport with the person who takes the dictation. She must look neither bored nor too keen, nor impatient when I get stuck (which happens all the time, for I am a painfully slow writer). Miss Cynthia May Jefferies, from Pretoria, South Africa, had, I intuitively felt, the necessary qualities to establish such rapport. And anyway, it was only a matter of two months. (As of today, the "matter" has lasted for thirty-three years.)

Mr Koestler did not feel much like doing letters. He dug a few out of a file and dictated six short, one-sentence replies. His study was on the first floor, his desk by the window, looking on to the Seine. When I had typed them, he read them through and signed them. It had not been much of a test of my abilities. He said so too, and reluctantly decided to take me on. I was to come out by train for two days a week. The next date was arranged and he drove me to the nearby railway station of Fontaine-le-Port. I sat on a bench on the platform, waiting for the train. It was a tiny French country station, deserted, with a row of pollarded trees on each side of the line. From where I sat I could see the bend of the river. The hay fever bout was worse than ever and frequent sniffing of the benzidine inhaler did not help much. I felt uneasy about my new job. Mr Koestler startled me. I did not know what he would say next. Every time he addressed a word to me I nearly jumped out of my skin. But it was only for two months after all. Nevertheless, I began to wish that it was over.

There was plenty of work to be done when I arrived. In the morning I took down replies to letters - letters to publishers, to literary agents, to friends and to readers. In the afternoon I typed them and, when I left about 5 pm, took them with me to post in Paris.

One day, to my surprise, Arthur asked me to stay on for dinner; he was expecting friends from England who were going to spend the night, and he needed "moral support". I wondered how my presence could possibly give support of any kind. The friends were Hamish Hamilton, the publisher, and his wife, Yvonne, their son, Alastair, an enchanting little boy of eight, and a nanny or governess.

He urged everybody to swallow the drink in one gulp

We sat down to an orgiastic meal at the candlelit dining table. Soup, followed by fish and entrée, were brought in by Madame Grandin - that old scarecrow, as Arthur called her. White and red wine were in abundance. The conversation was animated - it seemed like a dream to me. The guests were enjoying the kind of food and wine which could not be had in England, where food rationing was even more severe than during the war. After the meat course they began to feel that they could take no more and apologetically explained to their host that they were no longer in training after living in puritan England. At this point Arthur said he would give them something which would miraculously dispel the feeling of overeating; it would burn a passage into their gullets and they would be able to enjoy the rest of the meal. He paused dramatically; it was called, he said, a "trou Normand". He then produced four little glasses and filled them up with calvados. He urged everybody to follow his example and swallow the drink in one gulp. The effect would be immediate. It was impossible to resist such gentle persuasion and the guests, no doubt in trepidation, did not try to do so. I am sorry to say that the trou Normand had the promised effect only on the host, who continued alone to eat and drink with relish. At the end of dinner (Fontainebleau ice cream and champagne) the Hamiltons quickly retired to bed.

The summer of 1949 was a glorious one and it produced one of the great vintages of wine. In my memory it never seemed to rain; the pale, northern European sun shone, and the visitors to Verte Rive - English, American, central European and French - sat around on the landing stage, talking and drinking champagne,

which was cooled in the river; they swam in the Seine or took Sabby for walks in the forest. I often heard Arthur speak, during political arguments over dinner, with a passionate clarity which, I fervently felt, could move mountains. My train journeys to Fontaine-le-Port were light-hearted ones, and the return trips to Paris sad. Arthur's Canadian canoe had a sail and he taught himself to sail it with a book in one hand and the other on the rudder.

A Romanian friend asked me if he carried a gun and was surprised to hear that he did not. Surely, he said, there must be an electrified fence round the house. There was none and the front gates were always open. But I did notice that when I came into his study after lunch to wake him from his short siesta, he always woke with a start.

The reason for my friend's concern was, of course, that Arthur Koestler had become a very controversial name in France. *Darkness at Noon*, which was first published in England in 1940, was only published by Calmann-Lévy in France, under the title of *Le Zéro et l'Infini*, after the war. The communists bought up all the copies they could find in bookshops and burned them. Bravely Calmann-Lévy decided to reprint. The result was that, between editions, the book sold at black market prices. It made a tremendous impression, and everybody in France knew about the book and the name of its author. That was why I had to post all the letters in Paris. Nothing was ever posted in the village of Fontaine-le-Port as the clerks at the little post office were said to be members of the Communist Party. Only letters to personal friends were typed on writing paper headed with the address. All other letters bore the address, "c/o A. D. Peters", who was Arthur's literary agent.

Fontaine-le-Port was in the Briec country. Nearby were the Châtelet-en-Brie and Briec-Comte-Robert, a very pretty village. Alas, all the good Briec went to Paris and only shrivelled old stuff could be found in the region. Arthur was fond of cheese, particularly *chèvre*, and he was quick to notice that there was never any cheese on my plate.

"Koestler", he said to me, "has a very bad reputation."

"Have some," he said, pushing the board towards me.

"I never eat cheese," I said, feeling rather proud of my strange taste.

"Come on," he urged impatiently. "Try it."

It was a great mistake to say that, because he now became determined to convert me. How could anybody not like cheese? I must try it because he knew I would like it. In the end I had to give in and from then on I always had cheese. I suffered from this disarming bullying when it came to sausages too, which I used to hate.

One evening in Paris my Romanian friend told me that friends of the poet, Supervielle, had talked about Arthur with him. "Koestler," he said to me sternly, "has a very bad reputation." I said nothing. Anyway, it was too late.

During August, Arthur's wife, Maimaine, returned from England. They had been living together for about five years. People who were married that long, I was sure, must be quite bored with each other. This was not the case with them. But in between the long, peaceful and happy times there were occasional rows.

The first row I witnessed took place during lunch. I can only remember wanting to sink beneath the dining-room table. I could not bear to see them quarrelling.

One morning I arrived at Verte Rive to find a blast being turned on me. An important letter had been wrongly addressed and returned to the sender. Arthur produced the envelope. I could see it had not been typed by me and said so. As Arthur went off to find Maimaine and vent his feelings on her, I realised what I had done. I should have taken the blame - how could I have been such an idiot? But Maimaine did not hold it against me.

After the sybaritic summer, Arthur went on a diet for the first time in his life. This made work all but impossible. The hours dragged by and he kept glancing at his watch with a woeful half-guilty smile. I could not help laughing at him and he liked being mocked. On a beautiful sunny day he declared we should all have a treat and go on a picnic. We climbed into the boat and headed up river. On a grassy bank we unpacked the picnic. Maimaine and I had some terrine, chunks of bread and *cantal* - the sort of French food which tastes so delicious when you eat it out of doors. Arthur's lunch, according to the diet, consisted of radishes. There was not even any butter to go with them and he was particularly fond of that cheap, *prix fixe* hors d'oeuvre, *radis au beurre*. He looked at the radishes and frowned. Were they supposed to be for him? He turned to Maimaine and gazed at her accusingly. The countryside looked golden in the sunlight and the birds were singing to split their throats. "But how on earth can you expect one to eat nothing but a lot of radishes!" he cried in exasperation. We ate our picnic and rowed back to Verte Rive in gloomy silence. The rows always seemed to be on trivial matters and my sympathies were always with Maimaine. Paradoxical as it may seem, this in no way changed my feelings towards Arthur.

Stranger on the Square by Arthur and Cynthia Koestler. Published by Hutchinson next Monday £9.95.

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# MONDAY PAGE

## TALKBACK

### A nan about the house

From Helen C. McCarthy, Francis Road, London E10  
I am Mearns First Person, January 18) sounds an intelligent man, and so I assume that he has fully realized the implications of his own feelings about his changed role, and understands the impossibility of returning with any degree of justice to an arrangement identical to that formerly governing his family life.

If his self-esteem depended so entirely on being "top dog" in the family, his capacity for decision-making was governed entirely by the feeling that he had the economic power to make them binding on the rest of the family, and he so much needed the status of being the most highly-paid member of the family, how can he now inflict such diminution of self-respect on his wife?

I am sure he does not now expect her to abandon her new and fulfilling career for his personal convenience, as easily as she took it up, and so I am certain that the Mearns family will have an interesting story to tell us in a year's time. Their new life, with both parents working, will require a great deal of planning and sharing of work in the home. As Mrs Mearns has a responsible managerial position her needs at work will have to be considered as much as his. Their experiences will make fascinating reading, and I hope to have the pleasure of finding them in your columns in the future.

It, of course, I have totally misjudged the man from his words, he may assume that his "status" entitles him to insist that his job comes first and that she assumes the bulk of the responsibility for their family and its comfort. I trust it will not be so.

From Mrs Carole E. Versey, Oathill Close, Brixworth, Northants  
I read Jay Mearns' account of being a househusband with great interest as many other housewives must have. How many of us have given up careers, not on a whim, but to satisfy our own and our husbands' desire to have children, maybe sacrificing many years of hard work and abandoning any hope of returning to that same career?

I too find it hard to suggest going out for a meal, conscious that the money to pay the bill has been earned solely by my husband. It's even harder to use that money for luxuries such as clothes, hairdressing and makeup when there isn't a lot to spare.

Though always confident while employed, since becoming a housewife I have shrunk in my own estimation and have become very shy when meeting new people, although my job had brought me into contact with new people every day. Meanwhile my husband has blossomed, making new friends, always at ease and continues to progress well at his job.

It will be many years before I am able to go out into the big wide world again. My children are very young, and I'm not out for doing two jobs at once - my choice I know. What will that world have to offer me when I am available, I wonder? Mr Mearns, you are not alone. You have the sympathy of thousands of female dependants.

### Not-so-rare help

From John Shepherd, FRCS, Well Lane, Heswall, Merseyside  
There is another name for gout - podagra (G: a catching in the foot). Try that on your friends, Mr Franks (January 23). It will at least puzzle them, and might make them less unsympathetic.

Chacun à son goût...  
calman

From Frank Paton, Smoccombe House, Enmore, Somerset  
Congratulations to Alan Franks on his brilliantly sympathetic article. Only a gout sufferer could have written with such perception and understanding.

As an erstwhile sufferer I look back with a mixture of relief and nostalgia to those 15 years when I had to commute the unavoidable limp with excruciating "slipped getting off the bus". My family knew it was gout when I had to go upstairs on hands and knees, and could only be soothed by parting the sheets with the good foot, allowing the other to follow slowly and carefully, but very painfully.

Bills failed. Neither Zyloric for prevention nor butazolidone or indol for acute outbreaks could ward off an inconvenient but determined attack.  
Happily it seems this is now all in the past. Eighteen months ago I consulted a homeopathist who prescribed one day's complete starvation followed by a diet completely free of cereals of all types, tea, coffee, plums, peaches and grapes. I followed his advice assiduously and have never had a twinge of gout since.

The Hapsburg empire is no more and socialism reigns in Austria. Yet Richard Bassett finds Vienna still waltzing

## Perpetuum mobile



Ask any Viennese what he is doing in the evening between January 1 and Ash Wednesday (March 7) and he is likely to say he is off to a ball.

This year's season of 67 days will see over 300 balls in Vienna alone, to say nothing of the countless events organized in the surrounding countryside.

The Viennese passion for balls has often been attributed to a certain easy-going, frivolous attitude to life. Ever since the Congress of Vienna in 1815, when between quadrilles and banquets monarchs redrew the map of Europe, there have been dances to brighten the grey Austrian winter.

When the Austrian Empire began to collapse in 1918, the strains of the Radezky march still resounded in the ballrooms that every Viennese palace was lavishly equipped with. Even after the Second World War, when Vienna found itself divided between Russian, French, American and British troops, the season remained sufficiently uninterrupted to seduce the allies' officer corps, many of whom returned home in the 1950s with Austrian wives.

The dances proved no less resilient to the invasion of pop music in the 1960s. Although numbers declined by about 10 per cent at the state balls, very few Austrians found they were capable of giving up waltzes for long, and by the late 1970s the season was more packed than ever. Young Austrians are notoriously traditional and the potent nostalgia for the glitter of the Hapsburg

Empire crosses all social and political frontiers.

Nothing shows this more than the diversity of the balls. On the same night that Plácido Domingo opened the Vienna Philharmonic Ball in front of scores of ambassadors, the Austrian CID held its ball at the Hilton Hotel. The following week offered the competing delights of the Union of Post-workers' Ball, the underground Railway ball (music supplied by the band of the U4 metro line) and the slightly alarmingly named Butchers' Ball.

At all of them, most of the dancing consisted of waltzes and polkas. Discotheques, where they existed, were hidden in basement dance floors never half as crowded as the main ones above. Dress varied from white-tie with decorations - though many of these turned out on closer inspection to be swimming medals - to the ubiquitous grey-green Austrian country suit.

Trying to guess who is who from the dress, however, is never easy. The Austrian Socialist Party dons white-tie almost to the last man to attend the Opera Ball, and party secretaries can be seen sharing tables with monocled counts wearing the iron cross. The so-called debs, always in white, who open the larger balls are now as likely to come from solid socialist families as from the upper echelons of the aristocracy; not that the latter keep a particularly low profile - one in every five Viennese claims to be at least a baron.

Years of socialist government have

made some of the balls political rather than society spectacles. But the Putzls and Poldis who claim to represent the flower of Central European aristocracy seem reasonably content to rub shoulders, on the dance floor at least, with the daughter of trade union managers.

Nostalgia for the balls among all strata of Viennese society is evident in the dance schools of the city. Almost every young Viennese goes to one of these academies at the age of 14. Some of the establishments are legendary. Elmeier's in the Palais Pallavicini was founded by an Austrian colonel whose right leg had been blown off by Russian artillery in the First World War.

Before 1914, Willy Elmeier had been one of the best dancers in the Empire. After the war, he devoted his energies to teaching - and not only the art of dancing. All Elmeier's pupils were and still are rigidly schooled in the rules of etiquette. Rare is the Austrian girl who can light her own cigarette or remove her own coat in the company of its professionally charming male pupils. Unfortunately this sensitivity to the Austrian girl's wishes in the ballroom goes hand in hand with a highly traditional view of her role in society. For the Viennese, the career woman is still an eccentric novelty.

But the hand-kissing young men, apathetically pursuing the seduction of whichever girls come their way pales in comparison with the crush for hot-dogs, usual fare even at the grandest balls. By two in the morning the queue for the mustard can resemble scenes more



In step with tradition: a packed opening at the Technical Circle Ball

usually associated with the railway station at Sarajevo.

This sudden contempt for the human person is caused partly by the extortionate prices often charged for refreshments. The cost of drinks can easily be twice that of the tickets, which are between £3 and £20. Only the Johann's Club (a rather down-at-heel version of the Garrick) has resisted this unpleasant custom, offering dinner and breakfast in a castle near Vienna, for about £12.

The balls can also lose some of their charm by the morning. The hapless Viennese get up so early for work that a

6 am stroll through the metropolis is like walking down Piccadilly in the rush hour. As a result few Austrians see these dancers through to sunrise. Those that do seem more intent on pocketing the flower arrangements than savouring last moments.

But despite the bruises, torn dresses and empty wallets, the temptation to repeat the experience within at least a week is usually irresistible. And while few Viennese can match the Czar of Russia, who danced during the congress of Vienna for 40 consecutive nights, most will have visited at least a dozen balls by the end of the season.



Dr Albert Pethös,

biologist.  
I've organized various balls for the last five years. I don't dance but it is the tradition which is important. We once ruled half of Europe and these occasions are almost all we have left from imperial days. Gate-crashing? Of course it happens now and then, but now it's not so easy. At the Technical Circle Ball we have phalanxes of men guarding all the entrances most strictly. No one can get in without a ticket.



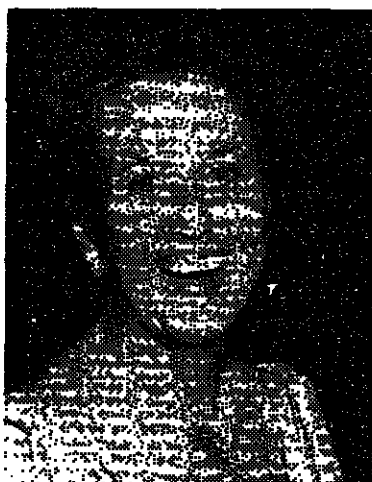
Elizabeth Schindt,

secretary.  
I've never opened a ball but it doesn't matter, you just dance. I often have to guide the men because they are always bumping into people on the floor. But when you have a good dancer, the waltzes can be really romantic. It's best if you go in a party, because it's not easy if you're a girl and alone, you usually end up with some poor boy who cannot afford to buy any drinks or even a frankfurter, and that's boring.



Prince Johannes "Poldi" von Schwarzenberg, musician:

I've been crashing balls ever since I was 15. It's terribly dull not to, and the people on the door are usually so stupid that anyone can walk in by using their imagination. Pretending to be a musician is one ruse, but some people say they're the German Ambassador's son, which if you use the right accent always works. Besides, the price of a ball ticket is so high these days that one has to make certain economies somewhere.



Hannalaurie Manne,

mother.  
I opened this ball in 1951 and I try to come to it every year, even though I now live in Italy. In the 1950s, the atmosphere was of course very different - we still had the Russian army in the streets, and people generally were much friendlier. We were all so poor, everyone was sticking together, the counts, the pianists, the waiters. Now they are all still here but they have nothing to say to each other.



Richard Tither,

English teacher.  
I don't usually go in for this sort of thing in London. But there's no way you're going to find a Viennese girl who doesn't. Of course, finding anyone who is remotely unconventional in this city is pretty difficult. The girls just measure out their lives in gold wrist-watches, and the men - well, as Osbert Lancaster said, few display the IQ of a mentally-underprivileged member of the Bullidun.



Nicole Gros,

medical student.  
I've opened many balls this season, which is a great privilege. We are chosen from the tap dancing schools, although it certainly helps if your parents order a box for the night. Sometimes your mother may have opened the ball or sometimes your boyfriend's father is on the patron's committee. But at least it has nothing to do with titles - it's no longer just the sons and daughters of aristocrats.

### Penny Perrick

## Don't worry, you're still Germa(i)ne

Dear Germaine Greer,

Please don't take on so. You have nothing to reproach yourself for, even if you think you have. I want to tell you this, since you are currently publicly ruing the day that you helped to change women's lives, my own included.

It is quite true, as you say, that women are in a mess, and that the sexual revolution you once advocated is partly to blame. But I think you've forgotten something, which is that we were all in a far worse mess before you sat down to write *The Female Eunuch*.

Just ask any woman who was around at the time. If she is honest, she will remind you how difficult life was when chastity was *de rigueur*, as you now seem to wish it to be again. What happened was this: young men, knowing how important it was for young women to remain chaste, did their damndest to ensure that they didn't. Every Saturday night, up and down the country, on every sofa in the land, you could hear the following:

"Please."  
"No."  
"Why not?"  
"Because it's wrong."  
"If you loved me, you would."  
(Anguished pause.)  
"But it's not right..."

This weekly skirmish was called the sex war, and the battle continued to rage until you substituted the sexual revolution, which held that one could if one wanted to. After the first heady free-for-all, which, in its way, caused as much suffering as the enforced chastity which it replaced, things settled down quite nicely. Your teachings began to be interpreted as: one didn't want to, as a recent magazine noll showed, there is very little promiscuity about, and more than a few calmly happy relationships which owe their pleasantly undramatic relationship to the fact that people need no longer fear

disapproval nor unwanted pregnancies.

I know you have spent a lot of time with babies lately, but have you come across any teenagers? If so, you must have noticed that the Saturday night sofa conversation is no more. Instead, young men and women are free to watch television, with all the lights on. They have a "take it or leave it" attitude to sex, and some of them choose to leave it. This is called The New Chastity and it's more wholesome than the old, forced kind that you are now so nostalgic about. The New Chastity may be the result of a pendulum swing against the kind of sexual freedom you once preached and, if it is, you should be very pleased with yourself.

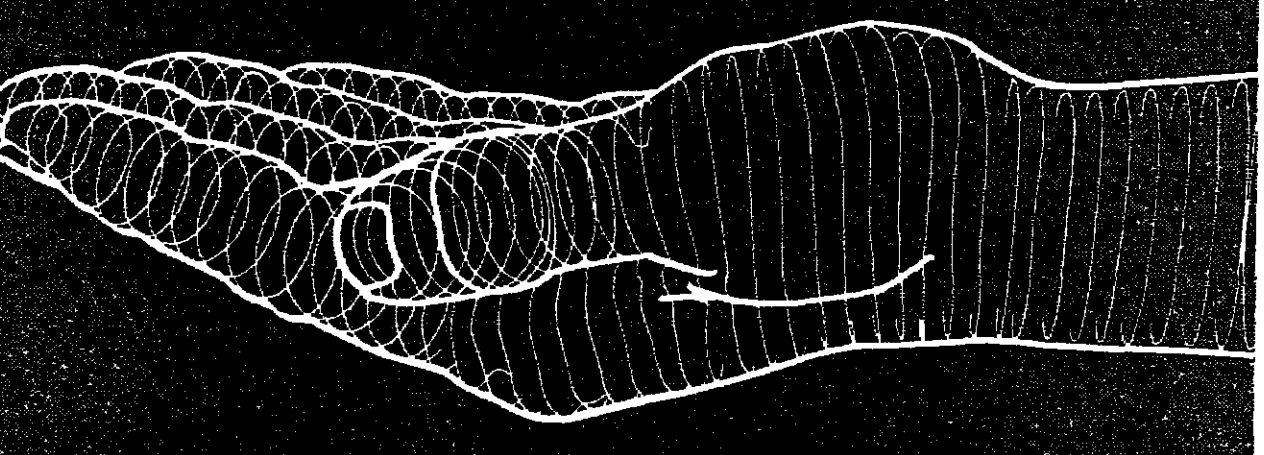
You also lament the spread of contraception, which has encouraged women to limit their families, with the result that, when pregnant, they feel like outlandish freaks. You compare our own offhand treatment of child-rearing with more traditional societies that honour childbirth and love children.

But contraception isn't the cause of our hostile attitudes. Even during times such as the Victorian era, when family life was given new importance, children were badly treated. I doubt whether there was ever a time when English babies were loved with passionate devotion and when the adult world revolved around their needs. You are a romantic woman, as you admit, and it is typical of you to mourn a pro-maternal society which never existed. Since it doesn't, bringing up children is a tough business, and it seems fair that it should be limited to those who feel they can handle it.

Should you still regret the current state of affairs, I suggest you ask the next dozen or so women you meet whether they would rather have their own problems or those their mothers once had. I guarantee that none of them will choose their mothers'. That they lead the lives they do is due partly to you. Thank you, Germaine, on behalf of us all.

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## PARIS DIARY

by Frank Johnson

## Revolving again

Although it cannot start for two years, the authorities on the subject, disinterested or otherwise, already cannot resist giving their views on what to do about the "instability" caused by the French constitution.

Since the Gaullist return of 1958, and the resultant creation of the durable Fifth Republic, the British have had to stop being scornful of French constitutions. For the preceding 150 years or so, they could be mocked either for their short duration, or for the fact that, even when the constitutions were long lasting, the terms of office of their prime ministers were not. It was a staple of British humour about foreign affairs. A caption to one of those elaborate drawings in the leaden pages of a Victorian *Punch* would run something like: "Lady in Hat, of Piccadilly: 'Could I have a copy of the French constitution?' Gentlemen behind counter: 'I'm sorry, Madam. We do not stock periodicals.'"

The present constitution put a stop to such revels. Under it, parliament cannot easily vote out the government. The government's relation to parliament is similar to that in Britain. But, as has been much commented on from the start, the constitution has a twist. As in the United States, the president and the legislature are elected at separate times and for separate terms. Yet, unlike in the United States, the ministers carrying out the president's policy sit in the legislature, under a prime minister, and must sustain a majority in it. What happens when presidents on the parliamentary majority are from opposing parties? The situation which could well arise after the parliamentary elections of 1986, when the socialists could lose two years before the next presidential election. It would be wrong to assume that this is some sort of flaw which the Fifth Republic's founder failed to spot. One of his men, M. Chaban-Delmas, has just implied in an interview that De Gaulle deliberately left the ambiguity. A theory is that he did not feel able to break the French democracy's tradition of a potentially powerful legislature. The return to the golden age of revolving prime ministers could start with M. Mitterrand, his Socialist Party having lost control of parliament in 1986, inviting a non-Socialist to form a government of the centre.

M. Barre, the last non-Socialist prime minister, is apparently saying that no non-Socialist should accept the commission, and that M. Mitterrand should be forced to resign and call a new presidential election. M. Barre's colleagues of the opposition are not all so high minded. Some are letting it be known that they would make the sacrifice of accepting the post, there being no shortage of potential French prime ministers. This is a subject to which we hope to return.

## Keeping time with the Metronomes

A true Metro station has (in addition to a sculpted, iron art nouveau entrance and a lyrical, double-barrelled name formed by the junction of two streets) its musicians. Against the white lavatorial tiles of the corridors are, as well as boring guitarists, pleasing flautists, trumpeters, violinists - even the other day, a woman in concert dress with a full sized harp. Often the musicians take to the train - though not, so far, the lady and her harp. If she does manage to struggle into a carriage, there must be high hopes of a grand piano being winched aboard, followed by a gentleman in tails, somewhere between Madeleine and Sevres-Babylon. This inspired, a small symphony orchestra could then be expected to start a ride somewhere between Reamur-Sabotopol and Denfert-Rochereau. At the moment, it is mainly guitarists.

Notices urge us neither to be entertainers ourselves nor to give them any money. My policy on money is strict. If all the singers offer us is the usual 1960s, mid-Atlantic moaning about the times that are a changing or that bridge which should have collapsed into its troubled waters long ago, they get nothing. Anyone can perform that stuff. But French, Spanish, and other repertoires deriving from a homogeneous culture are rewarded. British Metro performers tend, sadly, to be mid-Atlanticists. One sub-Dylanesque youth wailing into my ear revealed a Geordie accent when he asked for his money, and got nothing. Had he offered "The Blydenham Blues", he would have got his four francs. This policy, I am pleased to see, appeared also to be that of the indigenous Parisian travellers.



"I wonder if it includes any of Reagan's speeches"

## Towards a one-party state?



Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, gives an undertaking that the Lancaster House constitution will only be changed constitutionally - and defends his government's use of preventive detention in the face of continuing unrest

There has been considerable discussion in Zimbabwe about the eventual desirability of a one-party state. It is our impression that the overwhelming majority of our people would like to see its establishment. However, the constitutionally entrenched section of the Declaration of Rights relating to the protection of freedom of assembly and association says:

Except with his own consent or by way of parental discipline, no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of assembly and association, that is to say, his right to assemble freely and associate with other persons and in particular to form or belong to political parties or trade unions or other associations for the protection of his interests.

I must make it clear that in view of our commitment to constitutional government, we do not intend to tear up this or any other section of the constitution. We cannot amend this section without the support of "all the Members of the House of Assembly" before April 18 1990.

However, it may be that a *de facto* one-party state will come into being before those ten years are completed. If that happens as a result of elections, it would be the wish of the electors which we would be obliged to respect.

There are many arguments in favour of the one-party state. As a newly independent country, Zimbabwe requires above all national unity, stability, and economic development. We believe that the one-party state is the most effective means to give the necessary conditions for stability and economic development. Inter-party bickering only undermines the ability of the nation to organize the supreme effort required to give the economic necessities of life to all our people.

However, we are strictly bound by the terms of the constitution and whether a one-party state evolves *de facto*, or is, when it is constitutional so to do, introduced *de jure* after full consultation with the people, is a matter for the future.

We believe that the best protection of minority rights is in regarding each individual of such minority as having the same rights

as any individual of the majority. Hence, we favour the concept of the Declaration of Rights in principle and are very happy that we already have such a declaration in our constitution. What we cannot accept and have only tolerated hitherto is constitutionally entrenched minority representation as such in Parliament. While we found such entrenched racialism obnoxious, we compromised on this matter so as to end the bitter liberation struggle and to secure our independence.

Our aim at the Lancaster House Conference was to achieve our independence and to end the liberation war. Accordingly, we compromised and accepted the United Kingdom Summary of the Independence Constitution. We prefer that our white citizens become Members of Parliament on the same basis as other citizens, namely, popularity in a constituency.

As far as we are concerned, all citizens are Zimbabweans. The state is wiped clean and foolish are those who seek special privileges. The Declaration of Rights affords the necessary protection of everybody, majority and minority alike.

Whilst as an executive we by no means always agree with the decisions of our judges, our constitution requires and has ensured an independent judiciary. Experience shows that we indeed have an independent judiciary. Of the three major constitutional cases which have gone to our Supreme Court,

the court upheld the executive's case in *Hewlett v Minister of Finance and Another*, whilst finding against the executive in both *Minister of Home Affairs v Dabengwa and Another*, and *Minister of Home Affairs v York and Another*.

In a number of security-related cases, the judges have acquitted the accused, the most recent being *The State v Slater and Others* where Mr Justice Dumbutshena ruled the confessions of the accused were inadmissible, and consequently acquitted the Air Force officers.

Some members of the executive have publicly criticized some of these decisions by our judges; but the government as such has ignored these criticisms, preferring to treat them as the exercise by those concerned of their freedom of speech. The government has not, *qua* the government, by word or deed interfered with the independence of the judiciary.

Our reluctant use of the preventive detention provisions in our constitution has been the subject of comment around the world. My ministers and I yield to no one in our dislike of detention. I was myself a detainee for a decade and other ministers were detained for even longer periods.

However, our government is charged with the security of the nation, which is still under a state of emergency. The combination of the destabilization efforts of South Africa, and the activities of dissidents and bandits in some parts of

Zimbabwe have necessitated a continuous state of emergency in Zimbabwe since independence. Examples of grave security matters include the discovery of vast arms caches in Matabeleland and the Midlands, sabotage of a large number of our aeroplanes, the destruction of the ruling party's headquarters by bombs, the murder of civilians in Matabeleland and the assassination of the South Africa ANC representative in Harare.

In some cases, we have found it essential to resort to preventive detention. In a few cases, the national interest has forced us to detain individuals who are likely to engage in activities prejudicial to public security subsequent to their acquittal by the courts. Where we have detained people we have done so reluctantly and as a last resort. The detainees have been availed of their full rights.

For example, their cases are reviewed by an impartial and independent review tribunal appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Judicial Service Commission which is headed by the Chief Justice. The tribunal can recommend the release of the detainee, which recommendation is binding on the executive unless the President otherwise directs. In all the cases to date in which the tribunal has recommended the release of detainees, they have been released, and the President has not used his power to direct otherwise.

I stress that our constitution is British rather than Zimbabwean in origin. Despite this, I promised at Lancaster House on behalf of my party, Zanu (PF), "to abide by the terms of the independence constitution", and that promise has been and will be kept.

We will amend our constitution only where we believe that a better system of government and representation of people should be introduced and/or the lot of Zimbabweans will thereby be improved. In any such cases, we shall amend our constitution only in the manner provided for in the constitution itself.

Adapted from an article in the current issue of *The Parliamentary Magazine*, the magazine of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

## Stephen Brook gets Networked with the yippie who changed tack

New York - Remember the Chicago Seven? Probably not; but for some it still has totemic significance. In 1969 a handful of radicals and yippies were prosecuted by the US government under the 1969 Anti-Riot Act. This made it a federal offence to cross state lines with the intention of inciting or participating in a riot, which was generously defined as a group of at least three people threatening to injure people or property. With laws like that on the statute book, you can prosecute M. anybody, but the Nixon law machine picked some stout opponents when it threw the book at Abbie Hoffman, Tom Hayden, and five others.

These men were radicals of varying degrees of seriousness; those of a more frivolous bent had a gift for self-dramatization that was bound to turn the trial into a splendid media event. They were unwittingly aided and abetted by the judge, Julius Hoffman, who was ignorant and autocratic and insisted Hoffman not only imposed jail sentences on all the defendants but also sentenced the defence lawyers to up to four years for contempt.

But, as the newspapers like to ask, where are they now? Well, Hayden is enmeshed in more conventional California politics, and Jerry Rubin (who, according to the prosecution, "screamed and yelled for people to kill everybody") has now trimmed his beard and runs the Business Networking Salon.

"I'd hate to put words into Jerry's mouth, so let him speak for himself (text taken from Rubin's essayette in the brochure *The Networking Concept*): "Hi, I'm Jerry Rubin. You and the most interesting person you know are invited to The Business Networking Salon 'Every Wednesday' at Studio 54. From 5 to 10pm the music is in the background and the lights are bright. Studio 54 becomes your living room. People wear business tags, and are encouraged by the environment to meet each other. You're supposed to ask people what they do, exchange business cards, and suggest lunch to your most interesting contacts."

"The people you meet may transform your business or personal life - or introduce you to someone else who does. Business Networking creates a support system for us to translate your financial and personal dreams into reality."

This invitation induces hundreds of rising and falling careerists - indeed anyone with sufficient status to possess a business card - to queue up after a hard Wednesday at the office in order to spend an hour or three making business contacts. They may be "invited" by Jerry Rubin, but as he thoughtfully adds, "Admission \$8 with this Salon Card and your business card."

Such a common-sensical progress to the day-long seminar *How to Network Successfully* for just \$45. "You will discover how you can promote yourself and participate in Business Networking - the best tool for a business person in the 1980s; a period Jerry Rubin calls 'The Decade of Achievement'." He adds: "Be sure to bring a handful of business cards. You will learn to turn every day into a Networking opportunity."

I phoned the Networking number and explained that I was a British writer of an inquiring turn of mind. "Sure, you really ought to go along and see for yourself. I'll tell you what I'll do. I'm going to put your name on our list."

"Tremendous. How kind."

"Coming along to the Studio any time after 5.30 and don't forget to bring your business card and eight dollars."

"As I'm a reporter, don't you think I could be admitted without



Left, the screaming, yelling days. Right, Rubin the successful, effusive but elusive.

## So this is what happened to Jerry Rubin

"I'm sorry, we can't do that." "No problem. Look, you're going to have a wonderful time and you'll make all sorts of useful contacts."

At 6.30 the following Wednesday I arrived at the studio and forked out. As for a business card, I always carry some defunct cards with me, like false passports. I dropped an old favourite into the bucket provided and went in search of Rubin.

There he was, a stocky little fellow, perky, straight-backed, a red buttonhole erupting from his lapel. I introduced myself. He knew who I was, and greeted me cheerily. "Can I have a word with you?" "Sure. Get rid of your coat and come and talk."

I was puzzled. I am one of those rare creatures who can converse and hold a card at the same time. I didn't see the point of queuing for 10 minutes at the cloakroom only to have to search afresh for Rubin. "Where will I find you?" "On the floor. I'm around. I'm easy to find. You've found me already." He smiled at his excursion into logic.

I walked off. This upstairs wasn't going to tell me what to do with my sodding coat. I testily threw it into a dark corner, reflecting that it was OK for Rubin to be elusive, or for him to be effusive, but it was bad form to be both at the same time.

With lava in my veins, I glared round me, reading the lap tags as they flitted by: photographer, financial services, calligrapher, producer at physicians' radio network, chiropractor, financial reporting, for Colgate-Palmolive. On tables stacks of business cards were laid out. Looking for a wild-life photographer? No problem, there are two or three over here, take their cards. What a service! Though you can get it for nothing by checking the Yellow Pages.

A tall gangly youth approached and peered at my badge. I peered back. His name was Gregory, he was a pianist and composer. We shook hands, and instantly we Networked, just like that, first time around.

"A writer? Oh, that's great. I'm looking for a writer. Ever written a musical?" "No."

"That's too bad. I'm looking for someone to write the lyrics." "On what subject?" "I don't know yet. It's kinda open."

I don't think I can help you much. Maybe a libretto some day, but I wouldn't be ideal for a musical. "That's too bad. Still, you don't know till you've tried."

"Is this your first time?" "Yep. It's hard for me to scrape up eight dollars."

"Know what you mean," I growled. "No, I had to skip dinner, but I think it's just terrific."

"You do? Wouldn't you rather have dinner than search a roomful of financial analysts and chirochroctors for a songwriter?"

"No, I think it's great to be able to meet all these people like this. You can just walk up to anyone... All these contacts, it's fantastic, and all for eight dollars. Fantastic. You know something, to me it's worth eight."

I went in search of Rubin again. He was just sliding away from a small group of truss manufacturers. On seeing me, he slung a thick arm round my shoulder. "Hi, Stephen. How you doing? Having a good time?"

"Wonderful. Can I take you aside for a couple of questions?" He looked at me in horror. "I can't do an interview now. I'm working."

"So am I."

"I'm sorry. It just isn't possible. Here's my card, though, call me at my office any time tomorrow. I'll be there all day, happy to answer any questions you may have. This is my direct number."

Overwhelmed at having his direct number, I slunk away. By now the floor of the studio was crowded, perhaps 300 or so, many young women and rather older men, probably hoping to get laid rather

than expecting a new career. A wan woman brushed by me and I glanced at the tag on her bosom: college professor. Now what could she possibly be looking for at Studio 54? Students? But she had disappeared before I could ask her. Gregory too had vanished; perhaps he'd met the lyrics of his dreams and they'd gone back to his place in Queens to make sweet music. By the bar I heard a woman ask a thirtyish man: "Are you married?"

My dislike deepened for the premise of the salon: that what you do is more important than who you are. Moreover the crowd there consisted almost entirely of Indians, with hardly a chief in sight.

The next day I phoned my pal Jerry. Couldn't talk, too busy. Try again in five minutes, then he'd give me all the time I wanted. Busy again. And so on throughout the day. The next day I did get through. I passed to him the interestingly how few people have pointed out the unsure handling of the British characters, the lack of feel for intonation, language or period - beyond a crude jolly-good-show-steady-the-Buffs level. Where the two cultures meet, as in the famous rape scene, it is as though a scene from *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* has gone hideously wrong.

The literary sources for Paul Scott's *Raj Quartet* are plain. The theme of social and sexual unease derives directly from E. M. Forster's *Passage to India*, the British love of India and the internality of duty and adventure from Kipling, and the rotting of moral restraint under the tropical sun and the perils of arousing the memsahib's passions from Somerset Maugham. These considerable influences have not quite lost their power. But domesticated through Paul Scott's pleasant discussion, they are distinctly tamed. Much of the intensity, most of the lyric quality and virtually all of the jokes have been drained off. A mild, agreeable, very long drink remains - barley water rather than a choia peg.

Now the interesting thing is that this enterprise should have roused such huge enthusiasm among people of the better sort. It is not simply that outcrops are cancelled or dinners bolted in order not to miss *Jewel*. Huge claims are also made for the series as a work of art. And there is considerable indignation that this work should have been created by the wretched, vulgar ITV, while the BBC could only put on that appalling *Thorn Birds*. These comments are said to have caused something close to panic in the BBC.

Yet the kindest thing one could say of *Jewel in the Crown* is that it is a very decent sort of soap opera, which nicely accommodates the present nostalgia for the Raj. Nothing wrong with soap operas.

Yes, but your assumptions are all wrong.

"They're them."

"They're wrong, and it's not a question I'm going to answer."

"OK. What are your plans? Where do you go from here?"

"I have no plans. I think at the moment I'm satisfying a need, and I'm sure something will develop from that eventually."

"Would you go international?"

"Maybe. But I have no plans."

"And I have no more questions. Thank you."

An extract from Stephen Brook's *New York Days*. New York Nights, published by Hamish Hamilton, £9.95.

Anne Sofer

## Going to the back of the class

Two recent encounters, happening by chance within hours of each other, have caused me to reflect again on some prevalent myths about class, politics and education.

The first occasion was most civilized, in an old-world sense. Deep carpet, elegant Georgian windows near a park somewhere, a glass of dry sherry, and a genial companion trying to persuade me that my party (the SDP) should take a far more supportive and positive attitude to the independent schools. "You don't realize," he urged, "our parents are your potential supporters: it's an important constituency for you."

I demurred. Quite apart from the merits of the case (which I leave aside to discuss on another occasion), his argument was faulty. Only 6 per cent of the population send their children to independent schools - so it was hardly a huge constituency for any party. And all the evidence about the Alliance vote indicates that, unlike support for the other parties, it is evenly spread across the social classes.

I think I won the argument, but later that day it came back at me from another direction. This time the circumstances were by no means as comfortable. I was on the platform at the Royal Festival Hall, addressing a rally called to protest against the Government's proposal to abolish the GLC, cap the London rates and reorganize the ILEA, and doing so against a background of hissing, jeering and booing from sections of the audience who clearly did not want this to be an all-party occasion.

I followed a contribution from a parent from Southwark who spoke movingly about the damage that education cuts would cause. I had agreed with every word of her speech until near the end, when she said: "Of course the middle classes won't suffer, the middle classes of Dulwich and Hampstead will be all right..."

Not so, I told the audience, one of the opening canopies had died down. I had been to plenty of meetings in schools in Hampstead full of parents from all social classes desperately anxious about what was about to happen to their children's education. Many ILEA schools were very socially mixed, and that was a strength not a weakness.

That, of course, started the racket up again with renewed energy: roars of outrage that such a vision of the open society should be allowed to pollute the Day of Action. (The

Trotskyist paper *Newline* boasted in its next edition of the "class hostility" that had greeted my remarks.)

It is a myth that there are no, or very few, children from middle-class families in state schools. The statistics tell another story. Even of the Registrar General's social class (higher administrative and professional, large landowners) only 30 per cent send their children to independent schools. In Class II (middle managers, teachers, GPs) the figure is as low as 15 per cent. And since these days, the middle classes, both in terms of people's self-description and according to the Registrar General's categories, comprise pretty much half the population, it can readily be seen what a significant proportion they account for of the 94 per cent of children who are educated in the state system.

What is more, most of them are in comprehensive schools, as that is what most local education authorities now offer. And however much their parents may from time to time grumble and mutter about standards and discipline, they will - when offered the choice - react with horror at the prospect of returning to a selective system. Witness the huge numbers of two thoroughly middle-class areas, Solihull and Richmond, when Conservative councillors proposed bringing back grammar school in Richmond, it even contributed to their loss of control of the council to the Alliance.

So far from the middle classes having no stake in the state system, they are on the contrary its supporters and chief beneficiaries. Working-class families do not, on the whole, get nearly such a good return for their rates and taxes: their children are less likely to achieve good exam results, less likely to find it worth their while - or financially possible - to stay beyond the minimum leaving age, and far less likely to find their way into higher education. This is as true in inner London as in Surrey or Oxfordshire.

Righting this obvious injustice, giving schools a responsiveness and appeal that is genuinely classless, is the most intractable problem facing the education system. Unless we crack it, we are going to continue to squander the talents and motivation of half the population, just when we need them most.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for Camden, St Pancras North.

## Ferdinand Mount

## This Crown Jewel is only paste

Build-up often leads to let-down. It is best to come cold to things. But even after repressing expectations, I was taken aback by how far the ITV series *The Jewel in the Crown* falls short of the claims made for it. It is not simply a little bit overrated; its admirers have entered it in quite the wrong class, like a mule in the Horse of the Year show.

The dramatic personae seem to spend most of their time sitting in garden furniture and staring out over spectacular vistas of mountain and jungle. After a pause, one says to the other something like "It hasn't been the same since Sally went back to Corseport". This is usually followed by a pregnant pause, which is broken by a pregnant woman (or a chap in shorts) coming in to announce World War Two or renewed restlessness among the natives. The production is stilted and jerky, suggesting not so much that the British are out of place in India as that the actors have lost their place in the script.

Mr Mihir Bose has pointed out certain drawbacks in the series from the Indian point of view - the obsession with sexual relations between the races, and the failure to convey the lack of social contact between them. But I am surprised how few people have pointed out the unsure handling of the British characters, the lack of feel for intonation, language or period - beyond a crude jolly-good-show-steady-the-Buffs level. Where the two cultures meet, as in the famous rape scene, it is as though a scene from *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* has gone hideously wrong.

The literary sources for Paul Scott's *Raj Quartet* are plain. The theme of social and sexual unease derives directly from E. M. Forster's *Passage to India*, the British love of India and the internality of duty and adventure from Kipling, and the rotting of moral restraint under the tropical sun and the perils of arousing the memsahib's passions from Somerset Maugham. These considerable influences have not quite lost their power. But domesticated through Paul Scott's pleasant discussion, they are distinctly tamed. Much of the intensity, most of the lyric quality and virtually all of the jokes have been drained off. A mild, agreeable, very long drink remains - barley water rather than a choia peg.

Now the interesting thing is that this enterprise should have roused such huge enthusiasm among people of the better sort. It is not simply that outcrops are cancelled or dinners bolted in order not to miss *Jewel*. Huge claims are also made for the series as a work of art. And there is considerable indignation that this work should have been created by the wretched, vulgar ITV, while the BBC could only put on that appalling *Thorn Birds*. These comments are said to have caused something close to panic in the BBC.

Yet the kindest thing one could say of *Jewel in the Crown* is that it is a very decent sort of soap opera, which nicely accommodates the present nostalgia for the Raj. Nothing wrong with soap operas.

Yes, but your assumptions are all wrong.

"They're them."

"They're wrong, and it's not a question I'm going to answer."

"OK. What are your plans? Where do you go from here?"

"I have no plans. I think at the moment I'm satisfying a need, and I'm sure something will develop from that eventually."

"Would you go international?"

"Maybe. But I have no plans."

"And I have no more questions. Thank you."

An extract from Stephen Brook's *New York Days*. New York Nights, published by Hamish Hamilton, £9.95.

P. G. Wodehouse, I believe, used to watch at least two every day. Perhaps that is the point. People of the better sort are indignant that the BBC, which usually does "our" brand of soap, has abandoned them.

And in so doing, the BBC has indeed put itself in peril. If the commercial side now knows how to produce soap operas for the well-to-do, then the BBC has lost its trump card. For the BBC's ability to squeeze an adequate licence fee depends on its continued ability to meet the tastes of the better-off classes, to keep the beacon of gentility burning. This is masked by talk of "standards and quality". In practice, the programmes claimed by the BBC as falling in this category are often derivative and humdrum in the extreme, but they are respectable.

*The Thorn Birds* was not respectable. It was grotesque. The scene in which Richard Chamberlain as Archbishop de Brissac embraces Rachel Ward on the beach while the surf rolls over them was of a splendour to make Ronald Finkham weep in his grave. (Shortly afterwards, the Archbishop was made a cardinal.) But that is not what one pays one's licence fee for.

For years, the BBC authorities have operated on the belief that, in order to persuade the politicians that an increase in the licence fee is socially desirable, the BBC must produce rude, earthy programmes to appeal to the masses. This is a complete fallacy. Politicians of all parties tend to be middle-class and middlebrow, and they are extremely nervous of being thought vulgar. Many of them are frightened by popular taste and quick ready to disregard it if it will add to their own reputations.

Indeed, Mr Phillip Whitehead, one of Labour's broadcasting spokesmen when he was an MP, wrote in these columns only last week of the ghastly dangers of "every vestige of mass communication" being "vulgarized" - a peculiar fear, since by definition communications for the "common herd" can scarcely be other than common. It is the last aim of most politicians' "broadcasting policy" that viewers and listeners should be given what they want.

In reality, now that BBC TV's Arts-Features Department is a shadow of its former self, almost the only real good stuff on television is vulgar. Often it is extremely vulgar, for example, *Bar Wars* and *Peep*, the series about British workers on a German building-site which finished last weekend. *Minder*, with its brilliantly stylized villains' backchat between George Cole and Dennis Waterman, is as near an English equivalent to *Damon Runyon* as we are likely to see. These are the jewels in ITV's crown, semi-precious possibly, but at least they glitter. The best the BBC can do is *Grange Hill*.

But this kind of material is no way to extract a higher licence fee from a nervous Home Secretary. If the BBC really wants to regain its lustre, I recommend a judicious mixture of Scarlati, Sophocles and the complete works of J. B. Priestley.





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## FAINT DAWN IN THE EAST

The men who gather in Moscow today to elect a new leader cannot be approaching their task with much relish. No one they choose will be greeted with universal acclaim. If they opt for youth and change, the great grey mass of the party apparatus will dig in its heels to protect its corrupt and privileged mediocrities. If they opt for age, experience and continuity they will be saddled with another tired, elderly, short-term leader who will let problems pile up while the country drifts. If they opt for rigour and discipline they will know that the revived machinery of repression can easily get out of control and start devouring its own.

If they find time to lift their eyes and look out across the country for which they are responsible they will not find much to cheer them either. Gone are the great dreams of leading mankind into a new future. Gone are the early ideals of brotherhood, justice, peace and the emergence of new socialist man. Gone is the belief that a planned economy would soon overtake the wasteful confusion of free enterprise. Gone is the hope that the workers of the capitalist world would rise up and throw off their chains to march under the red flag. Out of revolution has come a heavy, corrupt and oppressive regime under which there is little room for intellectual creativity or industrial innovation. Look for revolutions in technology, thought and social development and you find them in the West. The only real success of the communist revolution has been in military power.

Even the much-vaunted industrialisation under Stalin was probably less than could have been achieved without the massive destruction wrought by revolution, particularly in agri-

culture. Projected into the present, the figures for industrial development under the Tsars reach higher than Russia has climbed today. Only in military power has that ancient, tragic country achieved equality with the West. Everywhere else it lags, and the gap is not closing. Perhaps one day it will find how to tap its vast material and human potential. Perhaps one day those ancient Russian dreams of being the third Rome will be realized, some genuine creative contribution to the world will emerge, some power to move men's minds instead of just inspiring fear but if it does the change seems unlikely to date from today's meeting in the Kremlin. The present system still sits too heavily on the country.

Its failure does not derive only from Russian history. It derives from the very simple, basic failure of its creators to understand that power corrupts, that a system without checks and balances, without the deliberate institutionalized dispersal of power, is doomed to stifle the impulse for challenge and change which alone can ensure creative development. There are plenty of frustrated reformers in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe who understand this very well but so far the system has proved too strong for them, and it is likely to remain so for some time, even after today.

So the agenda will remain more limited. At the centre of all deliberations will be the state of the economy. Although there were some slight signs of improvement in 1983, the broad picture is still gloomy. Admittedly a growth rate of about two per cent a year, which is the generally predicted average, does not look too bad by Western standards, but it does not tell the whole story. Not only is almost

every sector of the economy lagging behind the plan, particularly machinery output, but productivity of both labour and capital was declining by more than one per cent a year until 1983, which meant that more and more had to be put into the economy to maintain a given rate of output.

The planners' made matters worse by drastically cutting investment, thinking that productivity could be raised by other means, but they had to relent and allow investment some modest growth. However, this intensified the problem of simultaneously meeting the needs of defence and consumers. Consumption declined in 1982 and is now about static, while defence procurement slowed in 1976 to roughly the same rate of growth as the economy as a whole. The upturn in 1983 does not mean that basic problems have been solved, or that the need for reform is any less.

Hitherto the military establishment has tended to be on the side of orthodoxy because central planning ensures that it gets its share of the cake whatever happens to the rest of the economy. Recently, however, there have been signs of growing awareness that without a healthier and more modern economic base the quantity and quality of the defence effort will suffer. The late Mr Andropov made the point during a visit to a machine tool factory, and it has not been lost on the military men. This does not mean that they have become out and out reformists. They would not like too much power to devolve on the market. But they are probably becoming somewhat more interested in change than they were. What this means for the choice of a new leader is, however, as uncertain as so much else that goes on within the Kremlin's walls.

## WHERE CHURCH MEETS STATE

The New Ireland Forum is now preparing its report for publication in early March, having had the last and most theatrical of its open sessions. The Republic of Ireland is one of the few remaining nations of Christendom where the overlapping presence of Church and state are almost equally visible. The fact is cited by the Ulster Protestant as the first of his reasons for dealing with the place only at the end of a long spoon. On Thursday, in Dublin Castle, representatives of the hierarchy put themselves at the disposal of representatives of the chief political parties of the Dail, plus the SDLP from Northern Ireland, for the purpose of exploring church-state relations in the context of "reconciliation" between North and South. Both sides were on their best behaviour.

Bishop Cahal Daly, bishop of Down and Connor, led for the church. No Roman Catholic bishop in Ireland commands a more respectful Protestant hearing than Dr Daly. "The Catholic church in Ireland totally rejects the concept of the confessional state," he began. They did not seek "a Catholic state for a Catholic people". The alliance of church and state was harmful for both. "We have repeatedly declared that we in no way seek to have the moral teaching of the Catholic church become the criterion of constitutional law anywhere in Ireland or to have the principles of Catholic faith enshrined in civil law." What they claimed was the freedom to proclaim the gospel and to inform the consciences of Catholics as to the moral consequences of legislative measures and their impact on the moral quality of life in society. That and that alone.

They were, Dr Daly added, acutely conscious of the fears of the Northern Protestant community. It was a requirement, on which the bishops would insist, that the rights and liberties, civil and religious, of Northern Protestants would be "safeguarded and copper-fastened" in a united Ireland. "We bishops would raise our voices to resist any constitutional proposals

which might infringe or endanger" those rights and liberties cherished by the Protestants of Northern Ireland.

The bishops on that day could hardly have been of greater assistance to the nationalists conducting the forum. Their sensitivity to Ulster Protestant sentiment was exemplary. Their acceptance of the implications of the separation of church and state was readier than in the rather stiff written evidence they had supplied earlier in circumstances of some confusion. Dr Daly's statement and answers to questions deserve the attention of all Ulstermen, especially as they have reason to believe in his sincerity. At the same time they will measure his words against the history of the Catholic church in Ireland and against events of recent memory, and they will be right to do so.

The comparison was begun in the forum itself. Senator Mary Robinson, a one-woman council of civil liberties in the Republic, invited the bishops to explain how it was that the voices they would raise against any proposals endangering the civil and religious liberties of Northern Protestants had not been raised long ago on behalf of Protestants in the South. That was a very good and important question, said the bishop who fielded it. To judge by the report in the *Irish Times* it elicited a fair amount of flannel but no answer.

Discussion of the requirement that the Catholic partner in a mixed marriage give an undertaking about the upbringing of the children followed naturally from that. This is a source of much resentment in the Church of Ireland which regards it as aggressive and sees in it a primary cause of the diminution of the church's numbers. Relaxation there has been. The promise is not now to baptize and bring up the children as Catholics, but less exactly to do one's best to that end. No promise is required of the other partner. Still, the offence remains in the minds of Irish Protestants, and the Irish hierarchy is tied by Rome.

Cardinal O Fiaich's recent remarks about Sinn Fein were raised. They had earned a rebuke

in a formal statement by the Irish cabinet. In Ulster worst fears may be confirmed by the fact that such a rebuke was necessary, and confounded by the fact that it was possible. Bishop Daly explained that the admonitory had to be distinguished from the pastoral in the utterances of bishops. The bishops warned that Sinn Fein's open advocacy of political violence made it morally wrong to vote for it. Yet there would be cases of people supporting Sinn Fein for motives that were not necessarily to be condemned. He agreed with the Cardinal.

Then of course there is the experience of last year's referendum in the Republic which entrenched in the constitution a bar on legalized abortion. It was not the hierarchy but lay zealots who set that ball rolling. The bishops collectively instructed the faithful as to their moral duty while explicitly reserving every body's right to vote according to his conscience. The degree of pulp pressure varied from place to place. All this went on with scrupulous observance of the formal separation of church and state and of the functional distinction between priest and legislator. It also occurred at a time when winning the consent of Ulster Protestants to the notion of a new Ireland in which they would feel at home was high on the political agenda. The episode illustrated the contrast between the new pluralism on the surface of Irish political society and the confessionalism still underlying it.

All powers of government, says the Republic's constitution, derive under God from the people. It is the priests' influence in informing the minds of the people that makes Ulster Protestants so determined to have no part in that political society. That is the priestly power they will not be exposed to. Disestablishment, formal separation of church and state, the clerical abstention from political activity - all that does not affect the reality. The reality of the Roman Catholic clergy's role in society is something the Ulster Protestant would not expect, or ask, them to relinquish.

Whilst no one can say how those who did not attend would have voted, I can only repeat that one Conservative-controlled county council has supported the proposals for the general limitation of rates.

Surely no one supports the excessive provision of services without a proven need. Equally, most people would vote for lower taxation. My Conservative colleagues and I at the association worked hard to secure the re-election of the Prime Minister and the Conservative Government. We support the overall objectives of the Conservative Party, including the decentralization of power and the total rejection of the concept that Whitehall knows best.

However, in every democratic party there is a coalition of views and, inevitably, voters must select a manifesto package which may include specific proposals unacceptable to them.

I can see the difficulties for anyone who relies on past experience to form a current assessment. I can only assure your readers that this association's views were reached by those elected members chosen by our counties to represent them on the association. Our "posture" is the result of an overwhelming majority reached by those chosen to speak for their county council.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN R. LOVILL  
Eaton House,  
66a Eaton Square, SW1.

## Freedom of speech without question

From Lord Henderson of Brompton  
Sir, The Reverend J. P. Haldane-Stevenson's letter of January 28 from Canberra states that "Freedom of speech has hitherto been subject only to the various Parliament's own rules". It is not clear whether he is referring only to the various Parliaments in Australia or to those in "the whole British Commonwealth".

In this country, Parliament long claimed the right of freedom of speech by virtue of the superiority of the law of Parliament over common law. Ultimately, the privilege of freedom of speech was conferred by statute after the Glorious Revolution of 1688.

In article 9 of the Bill of Rights it was declared "That freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court of place out of Parliament". This is still on the statute book. Each House has the right to adjudicate on the conduct of its members and the *sub judice* rules, in particular, have been evolved to prevent prejudicial comment in Parliament on matters awaiting or under adjudication in the courts.

An unqualified statutory power confirming freedom of speech in Parliament together with the right of each House to adjudicate on the conduct of its own members has served us well for 300 years or so.

No doubt, the Senate committee in Canberra on the Australian Government's proposal to legislate to "abrogate or otherwise affect" state parliamentary privileges, particularly of free speech, will be fully aware of the position in this country.

Yours faithfully,  
HENDERSON OF BROMPTON,  
House of Lords.

## Sexual infections

From Professor M. W. Adler  
Sir, The United Kingdom is fortunate to have a unique clinical service for the care of patients with sexually transmitted diseases. This was created in 1916 following a royal commission and has always been free of charge, with great weight being put upon the confidential nature of the service.

It is sound public health policy to encourage patients with sexually transmitted diseases or those who might fear that they have contracted them to attend clinics (departments of genito-urinary medicine). Confidentiality of information imparted by patients to doctors is paramount in the practice of this branch of medicine.

Failure to adhere to this philosophy will dissuade patients from seeking medical attention, with profound consequences for their own health but also for those in the community asymptomatic and unaware of their infection.

I am concerned that the campaign to make it unlawful for doctors to give confidential treatment to patients under 16 years old will jeopardize the essential work of clinics. The legality of doctors giving confidential treatment to minors is now challenged by Mrs Victoria Gillick. She has been granted legal aid to appeal against Mr Justice Woolf's judgement, given in July, 1983, that a doctor may accept the consent to medical treatment of a minor who is capable of understanding.

Mr Gillick's crusade concerns contraception and has fixed on this rather round about way of "enabling parents to protect their daughters from early and unlawful sexual relationships". If her approach is successful on this point, however, a doctor will be unable to treat a minor under 16 years old in confidence for anything, including sexually transmitted disease. There is no doubt that the number of infections will increase as a result.

Yours faithfully,  
M. W. ADLER,  
Academic Department of Genito-Urinary Medicine,  
Middlesex Hospital Medical School,  
Jamaica House, W1,  
January 31.

## Activities in school

From Mrs Marion Killick  
Sir, Michael Ivens, the Director of Arts of Industry (article, January 2), wrote that on his visit to his children's London junior school to see their Christmas show there was a stall displaying Inner London Education Authority posters "managed by a school (Labour) governor".

I was that governor and I would beg the courtesy of your columns to state that I am not, nor have I been, a member of any political party. Sorry, Sir, but yet another "red under the bed" smear by the Aims of Industry proves to be groundless.

Yours faithfully,  
MARION KILLICK,  
12 Donaldson Road, NW6,  
January 10.

## Antarctic politics

From Mr Jeff Myhre  
Sir, I would like to interject, if I may, further dimension to the discussion of Antarctica's future, namely, what is likely to occur.

While the exchange between Messrs Luard (February 4) and Berdeman (February 8) are interesting philosophically, it is the politics of Antarctica that are at issue.

Under the 1959 Antarctic Treaty the consultative members have successfully concluded agreements on sealing and on the conservation of living resources. There is a definite sense in diplomatic circles that resolution of the minerals regime question will complete the arrangements for administering the continent. Consequently, the conferences held (in Bonn last summer,

## Preserving 'just balance' of marriage

From Mr J. R. E. Robinson, WS  
Sir, Canon Bentley's letter (February 9) is compassionate and illustrates the problems involved in the search for that elusive prize - the just balance between preserving the sanctity of marriage, and yet recognising the reality of irrevocable breakdown.

The fundamental difficulty lies in the fact that marriage is at present regarded as complete in law after physical consummation; to introduce an enquiry (with inevitable value judgments) as to whether it then blossoms by virtue of cohabitation into a true marriage would take the courts into a very contentious area. Whether a marriage is voidable (and not subject to a time bar) probably ought not to be the issue, but rather how and when to dissolve a marriage that has "crashed on the runway", to adopt Canon Bentley's phrase.

Assuming that the one year bar is enacted in respect of divorce petitions in England and Wales, there will still only be one ground - that the marriage has irretrievably broken down.

A gap has therefore been highlighted by Canon Bentley. Even under the proposed one year bar, spouses who neither have nor seek evidence of the other's adultery or behaviour will have to wait two years. The solution, if agreed by Parliament, would be to reduce the "consent" period for living apart to one year. That is arguably the effect of Canon Bentley's proposal if we are to maintain the policy of avoiding enquiring into the unhappy and intimate detail of a marriage.

For the same reason of policy, there would be much opposition to a modified version of the "consent" period, requiring proof of some "exceptional" circumstance (hardship, for example) to allow a reduction from two years to one in consent petitions. Elimination of such enquiries into "exceptional" cases is a major and intentional consequence of reducing the present three year bar.

While recognising and sharing Canon Bentley's concern to minimise suffering and to allow a fresh start, I believe that enquiring into details of failure to achieve satisfactory cohabitation in the first year would involve the courts in too subjective a judgment.

In all cases the Churches have an invaluable role to play. Many parishes are developing true marriage preparation, and that is to be warmly supported, both as an educational and preventive exercise as well as a possible later point of reference in times of difficulty. I prefer that to be the emphasis, rather than an anxious judicial post

mortem, and I do respect Canon Bentley's charitable approach.

Yours truly,  
JONATHAN ROBINSON,  
Senior Lecturer in Law,  
The School of Law,  
The University of Buckingham,  
Buckinghamshire,  
February 9.

From the Reverend Thomas M. Steel  
Sir, In his discussion of voidable marriage Canon Bentley seems to me to take us nearer the heart of the dilemma than he realises.

It is surely the function of all our relationships to help us to see others less by the distorting light of our projections ("figments of our imagination") and more as "actual persons" - and so to come to know ourselves. But this is the task of a lifetime and our imaginations play their subtle tricks in the most enduring unions. It is precisely these difficulties which lie at the root of marital trauma in every stage of life.

Canon Bentley may be right to point to the first year of marriage as a particularly crucial one in this epic struggle to which we are called, but is the "honeymoon year" not in essence indistinguishable from all the later times of crisis?

I think that we cannot escape so easily from the concepts of breakdown and dissolution.

Yours faithfully,  
THOMAS STEEL, Rector,  
The Parishes of Farnham Royal and Hederley,  
Farnham Royal Rectory,  
Farnham Common,  
Slough, Berkshire,  
February 9.

## From Mrs R. A. Holmes

Sir, Canon Bentley recommends "making marriages real and actual" only after a first "honeymoon" year. The couple, having vowed fidelity for life, are presumably not to consider it binding.

But many couples already have a "try-out" before marriage - surely vows must be vows. Canon Bentley's excellent reasons why marriages crash on the runway should be dealt with before marriage vows are made in church.

Marriages committed Christians last. They are based on honesty, unselfish love and chastity, underpinned by faith in God, by a caring community, and by Christ's global purpose.

As Christians demonstrate the richness, stability and lasting happiness of real marriage, church marriages will become the envy and the target for every hopeful couple.

Yours faithfully,  
JOAN HOLMES,  
216 Wickham Road,  
Croydon, Surrey.

## Investment mix

From Mr Charles Williams  
Sir, Tim Congdon (feature, February 8) is absolutely right when he suggests that those who seek to promote public-sector investment without providing any theoretical or empirical justification for increasing capital expenditure do not deserve to win their case. He is wrong in saying that the level of capital expenditure in the public sector must be determined by the rate of return.

Such a test is appropriate to the trading operations of the public sector, that is, the nationalized industries; but half of gross capital investment is in hospitals, roads and other non-commercial activities of central government and local authorities.

Techniques such as cost-benefit analysis may assist in the evaluation of certain types of public investment, particularly in transportation, but in the end it comes down to a question of political priority both between different capital projects and between capital and current expenditure in the public sector.

Those who seek to persuade the Government that the balance of public expenditure should be altered to favour capital investment have two tasks. They have to prove that the need for further capital investment and the renewal of aging assets exists; also they have to show convincing that a change in the level of public expenditure to favour capital would be beneficial to the economy.

Some work which supports these

contentions has been published but more needs to be done before it can be said that the case is fully proven.

Yours sincerely,  
CHARLES WILLIAMS,  
National Council of Building Materials Producers,  
33 Alfred Place, WC1,  
February 8.

## From Mr R. S. Godfrey

Sir, Tim Congdon is correct to remind us (feature, February 8) that economic activity is undertaken for the ultimate purpose of consumption; equally it can be asserted that it is desirable that the growth path of consumption be stable and positive.

The present concern is that consumption growth is occurring against a background of a ravaged manufacturing base and financed from rapidly dwindling oil reserves.

Those with a blind faith in the "invisible hand" can sleep secure in the "certainty" that the exchange rate mechanism will shift income creation to the manufacturing sector as oil production declines.

However, after so many disappointing flirtations with competing economic theories, we can ill afford to be as complacent as Mr Congdon.

The question which should be addressed is whether long-term consumption growth is secure.

Yours faithfully,  
R. S. GODFREY,  
14 Greenwood Road,  
St Johns,  
Woking,  
Surrey,  
February 8.

## Encouraging authors

From Mr Geoffrey Trease  
Sir, The possible fiasco threatening the launch of the Betty Trask novel award makes amusing light reading for the general public. While Mr Luard seems funny to the many struggling young novelists she must have hoped to encourage. It is the old story of generous intentions frustrated by a testator's over-optimistic phrasing.

This huge prize - incidentally, I think, not exclusively for a "romantic" novel but open to "other" novels of a traditional rather than an experimental nature - is limited, according to your report (February 4), to first-time authors under 35.

There must be a considerable number of authors below that age who have already published a

handful of books at great pains and yet trivial financial benefit, even though they may have given much pleasure and won critical esteem.

These novelists are disqualified by their previous efforts, yet surely they were given the chance of such an award. People write because they must, not because a golden carrot is suddenly dangled.

It is not only beginners we need to encourage, but those who have already battled nobly for some years and may occasionally despair.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY TREASE,  
The Croft,  
Old Church Road,  
Colwall,  
Malvern,  
Worcestershire,  
February 4.

## Proper treatment of our heritage

From Mr Alan Phillips  
Sir, Is not Lord Hampden missing the point (February 8)? Woods and hedges, unlike cowslips and violets, do not reach maturity in a single season. They take years. Sometimes hundreds of years.

No one would disagree with land management - but surely not exploitation? To cut back a hedgerow is one thing - but to grub it out is quite another. Our countryside is being treated today in a way from which it probably will not recover, and certainly not in our lifetimes.

This country's chalk downland, where Lord Hampden hopes to find cowslips and violets, now covers about 20 per cent of the area it did in 1949. At least 30 per cent of Britain's broad-leaved woodlands have been replaced by conifer plantations or "arable prairies". So much, then, for the bluebells, orchids, and even the bramble.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN PHILLIPS,  
As from: Department of Zoology,  
Nottingham University,  
Nottingham,  
February 10.

## From Dr W. J. Blair

Sir, Mr John Burton (February 10) complains of the hyperbole of what he calls conservationists with their emotive description of "hedgerows hundreds of years old", and cites Arthur Young to support his view that only "some few hedgerows" can be ancient.

But the example only applies to land which was cultivated as open fields during the middle ages. In much of England (for instance Kent and parts of the West Midlands) only a small proportion of the arable was ever farmed in this way, and the effects of parliamentary enclosure were correspondingly slight. In such regions there are still landscapes which are essentially medieval or even Anglo-Saxon; hedges and their banks often follow boundaries described in tenth-century charters.

Whatever the rights or wrongs of English "prairie farming", let there be no doubt that it is fast destroying landmarks more than a thousand years old.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BLAIR,  
The Queen's College,  
Oxford,  
February 10.

## Loyalty at GCHQ

From Mr C. J. Saville Glanville

Sir, It is hard to understand why the Government has not come out in so many words with the stark reality that there is no place for divided loyalty, either between the nation and the union or, perhaps, even between union and branch.

A no-strike agreement is useless, first, because the present officers cannot bind their successors, second, because they cannot control their branches and third, because even if it were enforceable, enforcement would be impossibly cumbersome.

What other course is open to the nation?

Yours faithfully,  
C. J. SAVILLE GLANVILLE,  
5th Floor,  
Pearl Assurance House,  
4 Temple Row,  
Birmingham,  
February 8.

## 'Work ethic' relevance

From Dr O. N. H. Leaman

Sir, The Dean of St Paul's (February 7) suggests that there will not be paid work for many people in our society who want to have it. Long-term unemployment is a growing and seemingly permanent problem. He asks rhetorically whether we should seek to replace the "work ethic" with a "life ethic".

This represents a fashionable line of argument today, among politicians and educationalists as well as among churchmen. Yet it is not fallacious? To succeed in our society the much-maligned "work ethic" is necessary and it is easy for those who have succeeded in the race to suggest to the losers that the race was not really significant at all. It is rather like those who pass examinations, condescendingly saying to those who have failed, that examinations are not important, or those with paid employment decrying its significance when talking to the unemployed.

What does it mean to replace a "work ethic" with a "life ethic"? Sir, we all hope to live and work. We all hope to achieve a reasonable standard of living for ourselves and our families. If we are unsuccessful, there is no comfort in being told that we should concentrate more upon "life" than upon "work".

Work is an integral aspect of life and to talk of replacing the former with the latter is to peddle empty slogans and useless palliatives.

Yours faithfully,  
OLIVER LEAMAN,  
Liverpool Polytechnic  
Faculty of Education and  
Community Studies,  
1, M. Marsh Campus,  
Barkhill Road, Liverpool.

## Noblesse oblige

From Mr William Hart

Sir, Mr John Faulkner (February 8) errs in suggesting that Lord Emsworth never took to "coronet and ermine". In "Service with a Smile" (1961) his Lordship, although at a loss to understand why Parliament could not "get itself opened without his assistance", suppresses his finer feelings and obeys the call of duty, hiring the robes and coronet from - where else? - the Brothers Moss.

Politically conscious, no, but certainly present.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM HART,  
Albion Chambers East,  
Bristol,  
February 9.

## Divided view of rates

From the Chairman of the Association of County Councils

Sir, I find it difficult to understand the precise grounds on which Sir John Grogan (January 19) is trying to take issue.

The figures which he quotes were, of course, supplied to him by the association. Every member county (except one, which is Labour-controlled) was represented at the executive council at which the decision was taken to oppose the Government's proposals. Like all democratic bodies, the decision was taken by those attending the meeting. There were only two votes against and seven abstentions.







THE TIMES

## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Scrap the summit and get on with the job

The five men responsible for three-quarters of the industrial world's economy stood each other up yesterday. "G 5", the semi-private mafia of finance ministers from Britain, the United States, Japan, West Germany and France, had a date in Paris. It should have been the preliminary to their spring round of get-togethers, under the aegis of a variety of international institutions, which leads reluctantly to the annual summer economic summit.

Alarmed by the first slump for a generation, six heads of government met in Rambouillet in 1975 for the first of these summits. Since then, the communiqués have churned out the same old pledges, but the summits have degenerated into picturesque publicity occasions. It was nice for Mrs Thatcher to visit quaint colonial Williamsburg in exalted company 10 days before her election last year. President Reagan will be visiting London in the same spirit this summer. No wonder finance ministers, who get all the donkey work without the stardom, have begun to rebel.

## Strongest growth since 1973

A healthy scepticism; nine years of economic summits have had meagre results. The leading nations were urged this way and that: first to expand together, so that none of them ran into balance of payments troubles, then to stagger their expansion, so their combined demand did not push up commodity prices. Neither phase was happy. Now, without any central directions, the main economies are between them achieving growth which looks stronger than at any time since 1973. In Europe, so far the weakest region, even the cautious EEC Commission has just revised its forecasts for the better. Inflation is under better control than it has been for a decade. Is it time, then, to abolish the business of economic summits, and leave Western world leaders to concentrate on trips to Moscow?

Their rosy economic picture is spoilt by three obvious areas of concern: the acute shortage of jobs, fears about the dollar and the level of international debt. Before finance ministers also abandon all pretence at fellowship (even the one really functional meeting of the spring, the interim committee of the International Monetary Fund, was for a time in doubt), it is just worth considering which of these issues might be susceptible to international economic statesmanship.

First, unemployment. The United States, which created more than 3 million jobs last year, sees it chiefly as a European problem. That is not quite fair: at the height of the recent recession, America was distinguished with the highest unemployment of any big economy except Britain. But apart from retaking the pledge against protectionism, there is precious little governments can do about employment together that they cannot do separately. International discussions may only be a distraction for the political grind of trying to clear clogged economic arteries back home.

Of course, exchange rates affect these efforts - and the dollar is the biggest bone of contention between Europe and America. But it is little use holding international meetings to worry at a bone. To Europeans, the United States appears grossly unneighbourly by holding up interest rates to help finance its budget deficit, thus damaging European recovery. To Americans - and not just defensive

Reaganites - these appear to be specious complaints from a continent suffering from "Eurosclerosis", whose currencies have fallen because European capital has been attracted by the bounding health of the American economy.

There would be small hope of international summitry resolving this difference, even if it were not American election year. A more interesting question is whether Europe can agree anything to help itself. Mr Fred Bergsten, academic and former US Treasury assistant secretary, suggested last week that Europe should try to restrict flows of capital into the United States. This idea, which bubbles to the surface in Europe occasionally under the optimistic title "Ring Fence", is mistaken and mistimed. Today's maze of international financial flows is desperately hard for governments to block effectively.

Which, effectively, leaves the issue of international debt. Politicians are not the best people to handle this. The next move in the delicate disentangling of international debt should be a steady lengthening of rescheduling, smoothing out the maturity bulges that threaten to move each country's debt problem from difficulty to danger, and at the same time forcing banks to take a more realistic view of the quality of their outstanding debt. The best agents of this change are the central banks and international financial institutions.

During Britain's domestic debt crisis in 1979-81, the Bank of England quietly steered the banks away from many an industrial bankruptcy, allowing the politicians to continue publicly refusing to rescue lame ducks. In the same way, central banks and international financial institutions can continue to steer bankers round the pitfalls of sovereign default without laying their governments open to demands for financial subsidies from every mismanaged economy. On the international scale, however, these institutions need the continuing overt support of their political masters, signed and sealed at international meetings; and a particular commitment from the United States.

## US under an obligation

Today's greediest international borrower is no Third World low-income country hungry for development capital - it is rich and developed America, which of all economies ought to be able to finance itself out of domestic savings. For so long as the United States is unable or unwilling to do so, it is under a particular obligation to support the efforts of the international organizations and central banks to keep up the flow of commercial bank lending to countries which would otherwise be "crowded out" of world markets.

What is more, it is in America's interests to put things right. Wall Street is guilty that dependence on foreign capital makes the dollar vulnerable; internationally exposed American banks stand to lose from the drastic drying-up of capital flows to the Third World. Raising this issue to the television excitement of a summit tends to bring out the worst in all parties. Reaching some measure of quiet agreement at less public international meetings worth a few Concorde flight hours of any finance minister's time.

Sarah Hogg  
Economics Editor

# Decision on aid for A320 launch expected this week

By Peter Wilson-Smith

A decision is imminent on government aid for the A320 Airbus which is expected to pave the way for British Aerospace's continued participation in the project.

A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday: "The Government fully recognizes the importance of the A320 to the British and European aerospace industries. We are expecting to reach a decision shortly."

Sources in Whitehall said there could well be an announcement this week. Although the extent of government aid in the form of a repayable deferred-interest loan is uncertain and British Aerospace is not expected to get all it has asked for, there are now strong indications that the

Government is keen to see the project go ahead.

Mrs Thatcher is said to have lent her backing to the project. Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is believed to have been initially sceptical about the commercial viability of the A320 when he took over at the department last autumn. But recently he has been promoting the idea among Cabinet colleagues.

British Aerospace has asked the Government for £437m, or two-thirds of the £640m it needs to gain a 26 per cent share of the work on the aeroplane alongside West Germany, France and Spain.

British Aerospace would make the wings on the aircraft, 150-seater aircraft, which is due to come into service in around

1987-88. The project would provide work for up to 4,000 British Aerospace employees.

British Aerospace has said that without government launch aid, it will pull out of the project.

Government concern that the project could turn out to be another white elephant along the lines of Concorde has delayed a decision on the funding. But fears that Airbus Industrie, the European consortium, could lose out to American manufacturers and pressure from France and West Germany are believed to have helped bring about a decision.

The Prime Minister may be behind the project, but it was stressed yesterday that this did no mean the Government

would provide all the £437m, requested and a deal is likely to involve greater private sector participation.

British Aerospace is reluctant to raise private-sector finance because of the debt servicing costs it would incur, the deferred-interest loan it has requested until revenues started coming in.

However, there is speculation that British Aerospace's merchant bankers have already made tentative soundings in the City to see what level of private sector funds might be forthcoming.

It was also being pointed out yesterday that the £437m requested of government allows for inflation and would not be needed at once but in stages.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Flotation of Mirror 'on schedule'

Reed International says it is to consider within three weeks the final draft of plans for the £100m Stock Exchange flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers.

However, doubts have been growing over whether the group will be able to come to market, as expected, by the end of April.

Mr Leslie Carpenter, Reed chief executive, said: "We always said that we would float the group in the first half of this year. I am still working on that time scale."

Mirror Group Newspapers, under the chairmanship of Mr Clive Thornton, has been working on proposals which would allow the group of six newspapers to enshrine editorial independence into the new company's rules.

● The completion of the biggest Western loan to the Soviet Union in more than three years has been delayed by the death of President Andropov. The lead banks were unable to complete the remaining details of the package on Friday which would have shown how comfortably over-subscribed the \$150m loan was going to be.

● British exports to Eastern Europe rose twice as fast as those to the Middle East last year, and even outpaced the increase in British sales worldwide. Mr Anthony Howe, executive secretary of the East European Trade Council, says: "The star performers in terms of our exports were the Soviet Union, where sales rose 25 per cent to £445m in 1983, and Poland, where they went up 14 per cent to £12m."

● At £949m, exports to the block as a whole were up by 10 per cent - 1 per cent in front of the global trade increase. Imports from Eastern Europe performed even better, rising 15 per cent to £1,301m, and producing a £352 surplus in its favour.

● Generale Occidentale Inc, the group headed by Sir James Goldsmith, refused to comment on reports that Goldsmith interests had acquired between 8 and 9 per cent of St Regis Corporation, the forest products, insurance and energy group.

## MAM awaits copyright ruling

By Jonathan Clare

Judgment will be delivered tomorrow on Management Agency and Music's appeal against an earlier decision, which awarded Mr Gilbert O'Sullivan, the singer, copyright of his songs.

The appeal judgment will be almost two years after Mr O'Sullivan started his action in February 1982.

In May 1982, Mr Justice Mansfield said that Mr O'Sullivan had been exploited by Mr Gordon Mills, his former manager and the chairman of MAM. He awarded Mr O'Sullivan the copyright of his songs with records and master tapes.

The judge said that between 1970 and 1978 records made by Mr O'Sullivan had grossed about £14.5m from which the



Gilbert O'Sullivan: one record singer made £400,000 pretax.

MAM's earnings from the O'Sullivan records were put at about £3m.

MAM's subsequent appeal was heard last December. The appeal has delayed publication of MAM's results for the year to July, which should have been announced in December.

Last week, the company said it hoped to publish figures on Wednesday when it has been able to assess the effects of the appeal judgment.

Analysts say it is difficult to gauge the size of the potential liability to MAM if the appeal fails to overturn the first judgment.

By 1973, Mr O'Sullivan had generated more than £2m from the sale of just one record, *Himself*. But his royalty payment from MAM was kept at 5 per cent when other singers were on 8 per cent.

## Maynards rejects new offer from Cartier

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Lewis Cartier, the entrepreneur who turned a butcher's round into Cartiers Superfoods, has told the board of Maynards that he was prepared to raise his bid from 250p to 265p.

The increased offer for the toy, sweet and newsgroup was subject to the board's recommendation of Mr Cartier's partial bid to gain control of 51.8 per cent of the shares and the adoption of a stamp duty saving scheme. Mr Cartier said he was prepared to raise the offer to 260p in return for agreement by the board and throw in another 5p for the cost-reducing plans.

But the approach was rebuffed by the Maynards board which said it was still inadequate.

In a letter to shareholders posted at the weekend, Mr Cartier said the board had rejected his proposals out of hand: "I will not approach your

board again," he wrote. Yesterday he said: "It was worth money to get agreement. It was not because we think the company was worth any more. A fully recommended offer is worth 10 per cent but these people would not talk."

Yesterday the Maynards board also put out its defence document which promises that the sale of the newsgroup shops will raise a net figure "significantly in excess of £3.5m." It has also updated its profits forecast for the year to June to £1.4m after a much reduced loss from the newsgroup shops in the six months to December. The £3.5m is after expected redundancy costs and capital gains tax.

The part bid, which values Maynards at more than £12m, finally closes on Friday. So far, Mr Cartier has acceptances for 23 per cent of Maynards shares.

## Bid nears for Prestige

By Our Financial Staff

A bid is expected soon for Prestige Group, the American-controlled kitchenware maker, after weekend confirmation that a City consortium has been established to make an approach through Barclays Merchant Bank.

An approach has been expected since October when American Home Products, Prestige's parent, told investors in New York that it was

prepared to sell the whole of its houseware division, which includes Prestige.

Prestige is already traded on the Stock Exchange, but AHP, a US foods and pharmaceuticals group, has a 75 per cent stake and is therefore the key to control.

The consortium is said to be made up mainly of clients of Phillips & Drew, the stockbrokers, but also includes some of Prestige's British management.

In October, Mr John Culligan, AHP's chairman, said the houseware division might not meet his company's criteria for growth in the long term.

The suggested price for the consortium bid is 240p, below the year's high of 260p, but well above the level of 188p before the October Statement. Such a bid would value Prestige at more than £45m.

Prestige employs more than 1,500 people in Britain and makes products ranging from tin openers to pressure cookers.

## Premiums on satellites may soar

By Bill Johnstone  
Technology Correspondent

Lloyd's underwriters are expected to increase their premiums for satellite insurance by at least 20 per cent, after a review this week, in the wake of the double disaster on the Space Shuttle mission when two communication satellites were lost.

They will also have to consider whether they would underwrite an attempt by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa), the owners of the Shuttle, to recover the satellites during a future mission.

The London market, which will pay out about £75m on the two satellite claims this week, will be looking for a way to recover the deficit. The satellites lost last week were Westar 6, owned by Western Union and insured for \$105m, of which half was in the London market, and Palapa B2, an Indonesian Government satellite re-insured for \$77m, of which two thirds was placed in London.

The underwriters will be pressing for an early report from Nasa on what precisely happened during the mission so that they can best assess future risks.

Any proof of technical failure which could mean a design enhancement and a requote on the insurance premium.

Hughes, American Telephone and Telegraph and the Australians have plans to launch satellites soon. Each would be insured for about \$80m and at least half of that would be placed in the London market.

Flow much the premiums will increase to compensate for the losses is yet undiscussed. There are expected to be underwriters who will be frightened of dealings by Mr Stephen Merrett, chairman of Merrett Syndication and one of London's leading experts on space insurance, said yesterday. Some may be attracted by the higher premiums.

## US NOTEBOOK

### Monetarist nightmare for Reagan

The rise of 0.6 per cent in the American producer price index in January raises the grim prospect for the Reagan Administration of a combination of sharp slowdown in economic growth and a sharp increase in the rate of inflation in 1984. This is a nightmare for the President.

In terms of economic management, the trend may well have peaked out in December 1983, with a year of strong economic growth and declining inflation behind him.

From now on, things may get worse quite quickly. Between December 1982 and December 1983 producer (wholesale) prices in the United States rose 0.6 per cent. In December they rose 0.1 per cent and in November they actually fell 0.2 per cent.

The "consensus" expectation was that producer prices would rise about 0.2 per cent in January. Thus, the rise of 0.6 per cent - equal to the rise during the whole of 1983 - took the markets by surprise and frightened them. Treasury bond futures immediately fell 7/32, the Treasury long bond of 2001-2013 fell more than a full point.

One month's figures do not make a trend. However, Professor Milton Friedman and other monetarists like Professor Karl Brunner of Rochester University, New York, have been predicting a big upsurge of inflation in 1984 for almost a year.

These economists have had their gaze fixed on the unprecedented increase in the stock of M1 money measure between July 1982 and July 1983, when M1 rose 13½ per cent.

Professor Friedman and Professor Brunner objected violently to the speed of that buildup of money, arguing that it would lead to inflation in 1984 and that it would also likely lead to a recession in 1984, because the Federal Reserve would be obliged to apply the brakes very suddenly to such a rate of money growth. If the monetarist forecast comes about President Reagan will face a nasty shock. He will be looking at an economy whose growth rate is falling sharply - where inflation is rising to an annual rate of 6 or 7 per cent - and where the US dollar may start to wilt.

Maxwell Newton

## BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: Dalgety, Impelsa Plastics, Mangano, Bronco Holdings, Murray Caladonian Investment Trust, Press Tools, Finalis: Canadian Pacific, Habit Precision Engineering, Manchester Ship Canal, Murray Western Manufacturing, Nottingham.

TOMORROW - Interims: Anel Industries, Fleet Holdings, Hampson Industries, Peerless, Finalis: Bio Isolates (Holdings), GM Firm (Holdings), General Funds Investment Trust.

WEDNESDAY - Interims: Robert M Douglas, Reliance Industries, W H Smith and Son (Holdings), TR City of London Trust, H Y Young Holdings, Finalis: Birimid Quilcast, Copenhagen Handelsbank A/S, Great Northern General Consolidated Investment Trust, London and Lombard Investment Trust, Reed Executive, Securicor, Security Services.

THURSDAY - Interims: MS International, Finalis: Alexanders Holdings, River and Mercantile Trust, River Plate and General Investment Trust, Trust of Property Shares, Updown Investment Co.

FRIDAY - Finalis: Glasgow Stockholders Trust, Hadrian Holdings, Ozalid Group Holdings (amenac).

ANNUAL MEETINGS  
TOMORROW - Hardys & Hanssens, Kimberley Brewery, Nottingham (noon); RSS Newsagents, Duke Street, Woking, Surrey (2.30); Tomkinsons, Duke Place, Kidderminster (noon); Williams Lee Group, 234/248 Old Street, EC1 (noon).  
WEDNESDAY - The Cranite Group, the Connaught Rooms, Great Queens Street, WC2 (noon); Pyke Holdings, the Connaught Rooms, Great Queens Street, WC2 (noon).  
THURSDAY - Dobson Park Industries, Albany Hotel, Nottingham (noon).  
FRIDAY - Arthur Lee & Sons, Shore Lane, Sheffield (12.30).

## ORDINARY SHARES

# Whisky: buy now while stocks last

To the man in the street a bottle of Scotch may seem a fairly prosaic item, albeit one with a relatively high price and perhaps prestige connotations. Underlying this straightforward image, however, is a picture of an industry every bit as cyclical as housebuilding, insurance underwriting, the price of gold, or the stock market itself.

There are two major identifiable cyclical patterns in the Scotch whisky industry. The first relates to the problem of matching production to demand. In many industries this would scarcely be a problem. In the whisky business, because of the legally required period of maturation, the manufacturer is obliged to plan production on the basis of estimated demand on average six years ahead. A sharp change in demand over the intervening period, therefore, leaves the

distiller with a shortage or a glut of maturing whisky. In the recent past, the rate of growth in demand for Scotch world wide has fallen dramatically and the resulting surplus stock has been overhanging the industry for several years, creating both a financing burden and also necessitating sharply reduced production.

This pattern has been exacerbated by a second cyclical influence related to the inventory of finished product held by distributors and retailers in major export markets. When consumer demand started to fall, the incentive for a whisky distributor/wholesaler to hold high stocks vanished; holding excess stocks was at the time also being penalized by high interest rates. The resultant destocking intensified the drop in consumer demand and magnified the problem for the distiller by throwing previous production plans even further out of kilter.

Some stability has now returned to the industry; maturing stocks are gradually being reduced back to a more normal level. Distributor destocking has run its course and in some markets demand for the product is reviving slowly.

The question which the industry cannot yet answer is whether or not it will shortly experience the reverse of this process in the form of a dramatic cyclical upswing, distributors restocking, a shortage of mature whisky and consequently sharply increased production. Logic suggests this is unlikely, but emotion and crowd psychology may take over in much the same way as they do from time to time in the stock market.

## Peter Temple

At any event some return to normalcy appear overdue and some modest underlying volume growth can be expected to reassert itself over the next few years. The US market remains the flywheel - large, mature, slowly eroding but nevertheless a powerful influence on profitability. The erstwhile highly profitable growth market of Latin America may take some considerable time to revive, so

way in which Scotch has been marketed in the past. There are some signs that this may be changing, just as Distillers' own marketing approach appears to be.

The emergence of a unified marketing approach for Distillers' brands in the home market is a revolutionary development for the company, particularly if it is seen as precursor of similar moves in overseas markets, and taken in conjunction with a perhaps harder headed approach to costs. If this revolution can eventually be successfully completed, the potential gains for Distillers are substantial, the (perhaps trickier) task thereafter being successful diversification, or at least an effective broadening of the company's base within the drinks industry.

The two other brand-dominated companies - Arthur Bell (190p) and Highland Distilleries (104p) - present differing features. Bell faces the problem of dominant brands rapidly maturing, brand position in the home market but equally has opportunity for further significant expansion of sales in the export trade, most notably in the United States, and for a highly professional and determined management team capable of putting this into effect. The market has already come to terms with the fact that the period of explosive growth in Bell's profits is now past and the rating on the shares is probably a little too low given the opportunities in the US which will be reinforced by the acquisition of Glenageles Hotels.

Of the two, Highland looks the more attractive proposition. The industry itself must bear some of the blame for the conservative and unimaginative

## US is the flywheel, but growth must be sought elsewhere

it is to increasing market penetration in areas such as Continental Europe, Japan, even South Africa, that the distillers must look for growth.

Distillers (252p) continues to dominate the industry worldwide and because of its development as a federation of brand owning and marketing companies has a huge portfolio of brands, some of which are in the ascendancy, some in decline, some strong in certain markets and weak in others. Though a source of strength, this also has its drawbacks, a large market share being difficult to defend against a series of determined smaller competitors.

The industry itself must bear some of the blame for the conservative and unimaginative

## Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	110%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate

7 day deposits on basis of greater £10,000 9.4%, £25,000 up to £50,000 9.4%, £50,000 and over 9.4%

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An Extraordinary General Meeting of H. P. Bulmer Holdings PLC was held on 6th February, 1984 at which ordinary shareholders approved, *inter alia*, an increase in the share capital of the Company and a capitalisation issue of new 8% per cent. Second Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each.

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted the Second Cumulative Preference Shares to the Official List. Dealings in the shares commence today.

Particulars of the Second Cumulative Preference Shares are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 24th February, 1984 from:-

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13th February 1984











































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# Thatcher pressed for Oman statement

By Rupert Morris

The Prime Minister will come under renewed pressure from Opposition MPs this week to declare her personal interest in the £300m Oman university deal, in which her son has now admitted involvement.

Mr Mark Thatcher, who had not previously spoken publicly on the subject, told *The Sunday Times* that he had played "a very small part" in the winning by the British company Cementation International of a contract to build a university in Oman in 1981.

He would not reveal how much he had been paid, but said that he had met his mother during her official visit to Oman.

Mr Peter Shore, Labour spokesman on trade and industry, said that because of those revelations "further and more serious questions inevitably arise, which directly involve the Prime Minister and the proper standards of ministerial conduct for which she has a special responsibility."

He called for a full and immediate statement to the Commons by Mrs Thatcher. Other Labour MPs emphasized that there was no implication that Mr Thatcher had done anything other than pursue legitimate business interests; their concern was that the Prime Minister should declare her personal interest.

Mr Thatcher told *The Sunday Times* that he and his family had been distressed by allegations in *The Observer* about the Oman contract, and he resented the suggestion that he had been a nobody before his mother became Prime Minister.

"Having a mother as Prime Minister, in fact, automatically disqualifies me from doing a lot of things."

He said that "politically motivated" attacks on him came from people with an innate hostility to big business. But he would not be driven out of business.

"I am responsible to three people on this planet: one of them is my mother, the second is the Almighty and the third is me. My responsibility is to her as my mother, not as Prime Minister. To me, that is peripheral."

He discounted the idea that his mother's influence could have helped him to win credit with Cementation, and said the fact that the contract was not put out to tender was "the prerogative of the client."

# An armchair traveller in space...



With the Earth as backdrop, Captain Bruce McCandless floats free in a photograph released yesterday. Shuttle's future, page 5.

# Syria warns US to stop naval shelling

Continued from page 1

The Americans completed the evacuation of 1,200 US residents and foreign nationals from Beirut on Saturday, although the operation was briefly suspended when four mortar shells - fired by a militia near the Beirut lighthouse - landed in the sea beside the British Embassy. A Turkish woman was also slightly wounded by a ricocheting bullet as she waited for an American helicopter to take her off the seafloor.

Many Americans decided to leave on Saturday after Frank Reiger, the American Professor of Electrical Engineering at the American University in Beirut, was kidnapped near the campus by armed men. The University yesterday appealed to its captors to give Professor Reiger medical care in a heart condition from which he suffers.

Among other American personnel evacuated from Beirut was the US G3 military intelligence corps attached to the Marines who failed to give any advance warning of Monday's assault by Hezbollah and the subsequent shelling of the Lebanese Embassy. The intelligence operatives were humiliatedly flown out to the Sixth Fleet under the title of "non-essential personnel".

There was still no word yesterday from President Gemayel.

Syria is prepared to see Mr Gemayel remain President provided he undertakes substantial reforms and grants Lebanon-Israeli peace. The question must now be: Can Mr Gemayel keep the Phalange in check if he stays on as President, but concedes opposition demands?

# Kremlin seeks to show unity to the West

Continued from page 1

including the People's Control, which carried out his anti-corruption campaign, although not from the KGB, his former fiercest enemy, suppressed dissidents under his rule.

The party newspaper gave prominence to the message of condolence from Mrs Thatcher. On a page otherwise devoted to messages from Communist leaders, Mrs Thatcher's expression of sorrow over the Soviet people's "great loss" appeared with messages from M Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, and President Karamanlis of Greece.

Some Soviet officials have privately voiced their hope that Western encounters with the new Kremlin leaders this week will lead to a fresh start in East-West relations, which under Mr Andropov sunk to a new low in the wake of the shooting down

of the South Korean jet in September and the collapse of the Geneva arms talks.

There was no official response yesterday to President Reagan's call for renewed détente, and no fresh indication of Moscow's next move on the Middle East crisis. Mr Aliyev was due to visit Syria this week for talks on Lebanon.

Diplomats cautioned yesterday that a collective leadership dominated by the old guard would be conservative and unimaginative in foreign policy, with little incentive to look for a breakthrough in relations with the West.

Soviet television yesterday showed commensurate meetings in farms and factories, with mourners carrying the portraits of Mr Andropov, which had symbolized power during his months of absence.

# Thatcher for Moscow

Continued from page 1

Downing Street was unable to say last night how long Mrs Thatcher would be staying in Moscow, which will depend on how much time the new leadership is prepared to give her and the Foreign Secretary. But it was clear that if the opportunity arises she will have plenty to say.

She will assure Mr Andropov's successor of the West's desire for a reduction in tension and that the improved dialogue that is needed should be extended beyond arms control negotiations into other areas.

Mrs Thatcher's former foreign affairs adviser, Sir Anthony Parsons, said on BBC radio yesterday that he thought she would go down well with the new Soviet leaders.

Other world leaders who will be travelling to Moscow for the funeral include Mr Wan Li, the Chinese vice-premier, President Ceausescu of Romania, Chancellor Sinowatz of Austria and Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Windsor Rugby Football Club, attends the Annual First Minders' Dinner at the Clubhouse, Windsor Home Park, 7.30.

**New exhibitions**  
Images in a studio by Bohuslav Barlow, Lancaster City Museum, Market Square, Lancaster; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 5 (until March 10).

The Nude drawings by British artists over the past 140 years.

### Usher Gallery, Lindum Road, Lincoln

Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2.30 to 5 (until March 11).  
Turbans, textiles, pots and paintings; Walsall Museum and Art Gallery, Central Library, Lichfield Street, Walsall; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45 (until March 10).

Sculpture's Dance: City Museum and Art Gallery, Broad Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5, Wed to 8 (until March 10).

Photographs, pen and ink illustrations and paintings by Stuart Roy; Chelmsford and Essex Museum, Oldlands Park, Moulsham

### Street, Chelmsford; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until March 25)

Wet paint: recent work; Festival gallery, 1 Pierpoint Place, Bath; Tues to Sat 11 to 5 (until March 3).

Action in sport: paintings and drawings by Simon Painter; Helios Pictures, 2 Salisbury Road, Moseley, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 9.30 to 6 (until March 7).

### Nature notes

Wintering starlings still roost in vast flocks, either in oak or beech coverts or on city buildings; but many resident birds are already in their summer territories, exploring nest-holes. They are brilliant mimics: if one hears the unlikely call of a curlew or lapwing on a rooftop, it will soon be followed by the starling's characteristic chattering and long, fading whistles.

Pairs of herons are back on their nests; they stand motionless side by side for long periods, or prod at the old sticks and try to rearrange them. Newly-formed pairs of robins sit quietly by each other in the bushes; crow pairs greet each other with bows and caws on high branches.

The flocks of redwings that recently came south have begun a rambling, bubbling song in the tree-tops; the first parties will soon be setting out for Norway.

There are crimson flowers on the elm twigs. The first sweet violets are in bloom, standing on their slim stalks among a tuft of heart-shaped leaves. Primroses are opening on the railway embankments. On the dead stumps of trees, dry puffballs release a cloud of yellow spores at the slightest touch.

### Roads

Midlands and East Anglia: A12: Roadworks at Bentley, between Ipswich and Colchester: two-way traffic shares one carriageway. A449: Roadworks near Powick, between Worcester and Malvern; traffic signals. A49: Temporary signals on Ludlow bypass.

Wales and West: A470: Subsidence repairs at Erwood, between Builth Wells and Brecon, Powys; temporary traffic signals. A361: Telephone work at Filleigh, between South Malton and Barnstaple, Devon; temporary traffic signals. A30: Improvement work at Widdon Down, Sucklepath, Lobbill and Lewdown, between Exeter and Launceston; temporary traffic signals.

North: A54: Drainage work at various locations between A49 and Winsford; temporary traffic lights. A6: Replacement of sewer at Kirkland, Kendal, Cumbria. A61: Removal of level crossing at Warburton, South Yorkshire; traffic lights.

Scotland: A987: Kerbing and resurfacing work between A907 junction and Cullaloe reservoir; single lane traffic with lights, delay at peak times. A702: Road widening two and a half miles south of Hillend (A703 junction); single lane traffic with temporary traffic lights. A8: Excavation work at Corstonphine Road, Edinburgh, west of Balgownie Road; restrictions. Information supplied by the AA.

### Weather forecast

A ridge of high pressure will persist over England and Wales as a trough of low pressure moves slowly E across Scotland and Northern Ireland.

#### Gam to midnight

London, SE, central S, SW England, East Anglia, Midlands E, Channel Islands: Sunny periods, dry, wind E light or moderate; max temp 6 to 8°C (43 to 46°F), frost early and late.

E, NE England, Lake District: Rather cloudy, mainly dry; wind S, light or moderate; max temp 7 to 9°C (45 to 48°F).

Midlands (W), Wales, NW, Central N England: Sunny periods, dry; wind S, light or moderate; max temp 6 to 7°C (43 to 45°F), frost early and late.

Life of Man, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, central Highlands, Northern Ireland: Mostly cloudy, outbreaks of rain, heavy at times; wind S, moderate or fresh; max temp 8 to 10°C (46 to 48°F).

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind SE, light, sea smooth. English Channel (E, Wind E, light or moderate; sea mainly smooth. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind mainly S, light or moderate; sea slight.

#### Sea passages

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#### Lighting-up time

London 5.41 pm to 6.48 am  
Bristol 5.30 pm to 6.58 am  
Edinburgh 5.41 pm to 7.01 am  
Manchester 5.44 pm to 7.11 am  
Penzance 6.5 pm to 7.8 am

#### Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, far.

Belfast	6.4	Guernsey	7.4
Birmingham	6.4	Inverness	7.4
Bristol	6.4	Jersey	6.4
Cardiff	6.4	London	6.4
Edinburgh	6.4	Manchester	6.4
Glasgow	6.4	Newcastle	6.4
London	6.4	Reading	6.4

#### Highest and lowest

Saturday: Highest day temp: Solihull 13C (55F); lowest day temp: Cromer 6C (43F); highest night temp: Loughborough 6C (43F); lowest night temp: Aberdeen 5.8C; highest sunshine: Loughborough 6.0hrs; highest sunshine: Loughborough 6.0hrs.

#### London

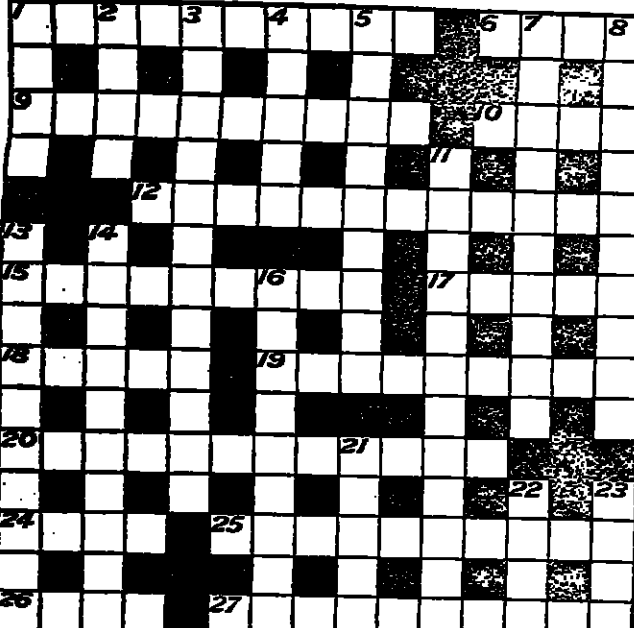
Saturday: Temp: max 9 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F); min 6 pm to 9 am, 6C (43F); humidity: 6 pm, 75 per cent; Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, a trace; Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 100 per cent; mean sea level, 6 pm, 1059.4 millibars steady.

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 8C (46F); min 6 pm to 9 am, 6C (43F); humidity: 6 pm, 75 per cent; Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.1mm; Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 100 per cent; mean sea level, 6 pm, 1058.7 millibars rising 29.53n.

#### Abroad

Algeria 12.4, Athens 12.4, Barcelona 12.4, Berlin 12.4, Bonn 12.4, Bucharest 12.4, Budapest 12.4, Casablanca 12.4, Copenhagen 12.4, Dublin 12.4, Geneva 12.4, Hamburg 12.4, Helsinki 12.4, Hong Kong 12.4, Istanbul 12.4, Jakarta 12.4, Johannesburg 12.4, Kuala Lumpur 12.4, London 12.4, Lyons 12.4, Madrid 12.4, Manila 12.4, Mexico City 12.4, Moscow 12.4, New Delhi 12.4, New York 12.4, Ottawa 12.4, Paris 12.4, Rome 12.4, Seoul 12.4, Singapore 12.4, Stockholm 12.4, Sydney 12.4, Taipei 12.4, Tokyo 12.4, Vancouver 12.4, Wellington 12.4, Zurich 12.4.

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,353



### ACROSS

- 1 Durability of Trevithick's way (10).
- 6 Adman with a boat in Malaysia (4).
- 9 But his diploma does not give him poetic freedom (10).
- 10 Capital used for part of Antonio's loan (4).
- 12 "Not in Utopia - fields" (Wordworth) (12).
- 15 Capital cover near Sevastopol (9).
- 17 Device for closure of almost the last chapter (5).
- 18 Retreat of Scotsman, with company, to William's birthplace (5).
- 19 "Faint and cheek" might we hear, from age so described? (9).
- 20 Recollection about many in short section of play (12).
- 24 Fate in Scandinavia caused by lack of naval power? (4).
- 25 He-rodent, not heartless, but ill-disposed towards others (10).
- 26 Savings scheme rejected by this young hawk (4).
- 27 Enduring ten stripes, perhaps (10).

### DOWN

- 1 A poet in Odysseus, for example? (4).
- 2 Dives proved to productive (4).
- 3 A small quantity intended, we hear, for declaration (12).

### CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

### Best wines

In a blind tasting of 43 Corton wines, Corton 1979 by Trollet-Baut & Fils was judged outstanding. It is sold at £13.85 by O. W. Leob; Gerard Harris of Aston Clinton, Bucks; G. H. Gane of Winchester, Hants; and Thomas Baty, Liverpool. The runner-up was the same house's Corton-Bressandes 1979, £14.20, from the same suppliers. Source: *Decanter*, February.

### Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Private Member's Motion on organs for transplant. Nottinghamshire County Council Bill, report.

Lords (2.30): Telecommunications Bill, committee: Agricultural Holdings Bill, Inshore Fishing (Scotland) Bill, report. Tourism (Overseas Promotion) (Scotland) Bill, third reading.

### Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for £100,000, £50,000 and £25,000 Premium Bond Prizes announced on Saturday are: £100,000: 1875 166599 (winner lives in London borough of Haringey); £50,000: 138L 142496 (City of London); £25,000: 7YS 548445 (Merseyside).

### The pound

Australia \$	1.59	Bank	1.51
Austria Sch	28.60	Belgium Fr	27.00
Belgium Fr	1.83	Canada \$	84.50
Canada \$	1.46	Denmark Kr	13.98
Denmark Kr	8.45	Finland Mk	11.80
Finland Mk	12.30	France Fr	4.02
France Fr	162.00	Germany DM	152.00
Germany DM	11.35	Greece Dr	107.5
Greece Dr	1.31	Hong Kong \$	1.25
Hong Kong \$	246.00	Italy Lira	236.00
Italy Lira	347.00	Japan Yen	331.00
Japan Yen	4.57	Netherlands Gld	4.34
Netherlands Gld	11.50	Norway Kr	10.50
Norway Kr	200.00	Portugal Esc	190.00
Portugal Esc	1.94	South Africa R	1.80
South Africa R	227.00	Spain Ptas	218.00
Spain Ptas	11.95	Sweden Kr	11.35
Sweden Kr	3.28	Switzerland Fr	3.11
Switzerland Fr	1.46	USA \$	1.46
USA \$	210.00	Yugoslavia Dnr	200.00
Yugoslavia Dnr			

### Anniversaries

Births: John Hunter, surgeon and pioneer of pathology, Long Calderwood, Strathclyde, 1728; Lord Randolph Churchill, politician, Blenheim Palace, 1849.

Deaths: Catherine Howard, fifth wife of Henry VIII, executed, London, 1542; Beethoven's Cellini, sculptor and goldsmith, Florence, 1571; Richard Wagner, composer, Venice, 1883.

Accession of William III and Mary II, 1689. Massacre of the MacDonalds at Glencoe, 1692.

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### The papers

Zimbabwe's biggest-selling newspaper, the *Harare Sunday Mail*, commencing yesterday on the death of the Soviet President, Mr Andropov said: "It is to be hoped that President Reagan and his administration will not lose any opportunity to continue nuclear arms negotiations with whom ever emerges as the new leader of the Soviet Union."

The paper continued: "While the Soviet people have lost a great leader, they have not lost their peaceful objectives. It is to be hoped that the many world leaders who will assemble in Moscow for the funeral will also take the opportunity to talk the language of peace."

Mrs Thatcher's impending visit to the Soviet Union to attend Mr Andropov's funeral dominated the Sunday papers, with two, the *Mail* on Sunday and the *News of the World* casting the Prime Minister as a breaker of the diplomatic ice. In both leading articles and news reports the papers sensed that Mrs Thatcher might be able to start a new process of détente.

The *Washington Post* yesterday called for President Reagan to decide against leaving the US Sixth Fleet off Lebanon.

The paper added: "There is the further question of what forces the United States in bombarding and to what political effect. The Muslim and Druze militias, which are the targets of American fire, represent communities whose legitimate political aspirations, though not their military means, have been broadly endorsed by the very administration firing at them now. With Syria, whose forces in Lebanon are also under American guns, the United States has a strong political conflict but not a cause for war."